

Testimony: SB941, Oppose, Mike Chandler, Portland Oregon, 97229

Before enacting a law, it should be common sense to assess what the impact of that law is, and how to measure its success or failure, and if it is even necessary for the intended goal. I believe if we honestly did so, we would find that this is a law out of time and place.

Nationwide the country has seen a 50% decrease in gun related homicides since 1993. But a majority of the public does not know this and actually think its worsening, according to the PEW research poll. But our homicide rate is now the lowest it's been in 50 years. And if the trend continues within the next 5 years will be the lowest in over 100 years. The same trend is true in Oregon. We have not had a lower homicide rate in this state since 1957. And it continues to drop.

Comparing states is popular. Oregon has, compared to states with background checks for all handgun sales:

- 36% fewer aggravated assaults (FBI UCR)
- 39% lower violent crime rate (FBI UCR)
- 46% homicides (FBI CDC)
- 49% fewer officers killed by handguns (FBI LEOKIA)
- 56% fewer robberies (FBI UCR)
- 62% fewer homicides with a firearm (CDC WONDER)

What about Colorado? We were told by the gun-control lobby that 40% of all gun sales were completed privately and without a background check. Colorado found out the hard way after over budgeting by millions of dollars that the true rate was closer to 6.5% (including gun-show private sales already covered under the law). Millions of gun owners across the country are willing to accept an apology now in lieu of a "we told you so".

"But what about Missouri? When they rescinded their handgun permit purchase program, homicides went up 25%". And it went up 30% in the neighboring background check state of Nebraska. And it spiked in several other states with stringent background checks as well. I do have to wonder why the researcher did not include in their study the other two states that rescinded their background check laws; Tennessee and Indiana.

But what about our own laws and state? What are the deaths were a gun was used? In the last decade it is ~

- 83% Suicide
 - Suicide in general is a problem in Oregon as it continues to increase since 2000. Suicide with a firearm, BTW has been decreasing as a % of suicides since 2000. If your goal is to save lives, this is the area to concentrate. States with background checks for handgun laws do not have low suicide rates because of gun-control. But my analysis does shows it's the result of superior mental health services, as ranked by the Mental Health America non-profit (quality not money spent) in their annual mental health report.
- 13% Homicide – continues to trend down with the rest of the nation
- 2% Legal Intervention
- 2% Accidental or undetermined – down 80% since the 1990's. 4ea children in Oregon 14 or younger were killed in the last 10 years in accidents involving a firearm.

We are a unique state in many ways. Just like Colorado, we passed a 2000 ballot measure requiring private sales to be processed thru a background check at gun-shows. Don't we deserve to question if that law had any measureable effect on crime? Using the same "gun-sense logic" that says Missouri had a 25% increase in homicides following their repeal; Portland experienced a 27% increase in homicides after the gun-show law went into effect. What are we doing to ourselves if we keep passing laws that we know are either ineffective, or hurt us? What's the common-sense in that?

The background check bill was touted as a crime stopper. It was originally described as a common sense solution to fighting gun-violence (sound familiar). It has done neither, other than cut down on the number of collectors attending shows. We should be provided with concrete proof that the law did something measureable in the reduction of crime before asking to expand the system to the rest of the state.

In 2007 the chief sponsor of the Oregon gun show background check law was giving testimony for a similar bill for Washington State. At their capital the chief sponsor said":

"Gun shows were always two things: a fun thing for a family to do on a Saturday morning, and a place for criminals to get guns," "Now it's only one of those things."

This same sponsor also described their efforts to pass the Oregon law as;

"going to the belly of the beast in rural Oregon". To get the ballot passed.

I'm from the coastal Rural Oregon. Over 100 years of family history. I am not a criminal nor am I a beast. And I resent being treated as such. I request that this bill stay in committee and work on other bills to promote mental health services, or bills that actually target criminals and not the general law abiding. "If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear", or passing a law because people like it, not because it's effective, should not be a motivator for passing new laws, nor represent the culture of our state. Thank you.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Homicides And General Crime: Oregon and the USA	3
3	Oregon Crime.....	6
4	Oregon Suicide and Mental Health. Or The Real killer in Oregon.	15
5	Quality of Mental Health Services:	17
6	Oregon Deaths When a Firearm Is Used: State only Examination	21
7	Where do Criminals Get Their Guns	27
8	Trafficking Between Oregon and Other States	29
9	Other States that have Repealed Background Checks.....	32
10	Oregon Accidents.....	35
11	“Excellent studies” About “States with Background Checks for All Hand-Guns...”	38
12	The Effects of Colorados Background Check Law.....	43
13	Gun related deaths are Higher than car accident deaths In Oregon....	45
14	Who is the Money Behind Gun Control? (And what does he want?)	48
15	A short explanation for why Gun Onwers Feel the way they Do.....	49
16	Subjects to be added in Future Editions of this report.....	50

1 INTRODUCTION

How often have you hear “Studies have shown that for states with background checks....” followed by some amazing number or statement that lead you to believe that if only we had the same laws, we could be just as safe or prevent further tragedies from happening. If you listen carefully to gun-control lobbyists when they talk about more gun control these are numbers used as their justification for supporting things like expanding background checks. But is it really true? Should ‘more gun control’ get the credit if crime goes down? Do you know how Oregon compares to those states?

So how does Oregon compare to states with background checks, and their own crime rates? Is there success? Is there rhyme or reason as to the trend?

This is a first version in a series that attempts to answer that question, and help explain just what those numbers are, where they are coming from, and how they compare to Oregon.

2 HOMICIDES AND GENERAL CRIME: OREGON AND THE USA

Crime. When listening to gun-control lobbyists this seems to be the #1 push-point they lay out to the public as the reason for more gun control. And why not? It is scary and unpredictable. No other category of death where a firearm is used (Suicide, Homicide, Accidental) is as unpredictable or uncontrollable as a homicide.

Unfortunately, there is a large part of the population that has had only TV shows and movies as their primary source of education on firearms and crime. The Matrix and CSI are not real life.

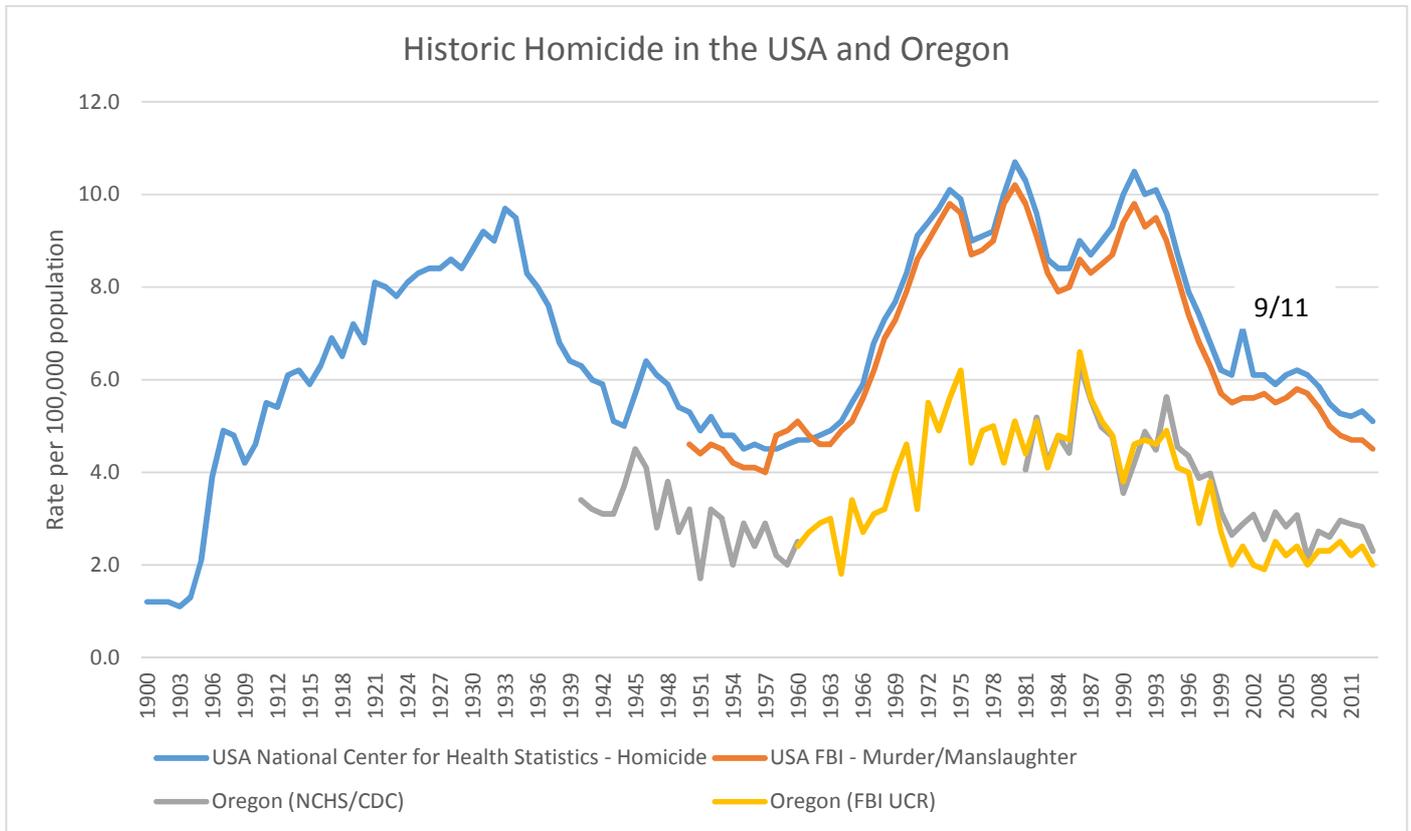
So what happens when someone has a lack of knowledge and a need to remove the dredges of fear to feel secure? They attempt to bridge that gap with information and thoughts that sound rational until they feel comfortable with their own conclusions. They are back in control. It’s a natural response; from office gossip around the water cooler, to wondering what that noise was outside, people want to know what’s going on around them and feel as if they have some control around their immediate surroundings. What happens when someone is given incorrect or misleading information to form those conclusions? As with rumors, solutions that sound comfortable get suggested and embraced, adamantly so at times. Meanwhile the real problems continue undisturbed. It’s not just gun-control where this happens. It happens every day by many well intentioned people, even those well educated in their fields of study. Instead of asking “why”, “how”, or “prove it” there is a rush to embrace a solution that just seems to be “common sense”, without actually analyzing the problem to break it down and find measurable solutions that actually solve, or reduce the occurrence of, the problem. The illusion of safety and comfort should not override reality.

That’s why it’s so important to clearly understand a problem before rushing to a solution, no matter how “common-sense” it sounds. I don’t think anyone has, as tempting as it seems, taken a pair of scissors to a jigsaw puzzle to make the pieces fit where you want them too. At least don’t try to tell me “it’s working” when you try to show me the final picture!

First stop: Are we in an epidemic of “gun violence”? Or “The 49% drop in Crime that nobody seems to know about”

In short: no. But don’t take my word for it. According to the Pew Research Center, the gun homicide rate by itself has fallen **49%** since 1993ⁱ. If you follow Center of Disease and Control (CDC) data we have not seen a rate this low since 1964, 50 years ago (1964 homicide rate: 5.1. 2013 rate: 5.1). Do you follow FBI crimes statistics? Then we’ve already passed the 50 year mark and may be on our way to a 100 year low. Murder/non-negligent manslaughter hasn’t been this low in Oregon since 1957. (Footnote on the differences between FBI and CDC statisticsⁱⁱ).

Here's the national trend over the last 113 years (2013 is graphed, however Excel does not plot the x-axis on the graph. Data is from the FBI and National Center for Health Statisticsⁱⁱⁱ. Oregon is also trended from data available at the time of this report. ^{iv}



What does the graph show us? Are we headed into, or in the midst of, a crime/gun epidemic? No. Many people are surprised to learn that overall crime, including homicide, has fallen dramatically since the early 1990's. In fact, **much of the public believes the opposite of the actual trends, that crime is getting worse^v**. The downward trend should be good news, right? So why is everyone running around saying we need more gun laws? Are they stuck in the 1970-90's and haven't paused to comprehend the progress made to date? The US hasn't had a homicide by gun rate like we have now since 1910's, when the rate was first recorded at 2.5!^{vi} (Note the overall homicide rate was 4.6 at the time. 10 years earlier, the overall homicide rate was 1.2).

Different reasons have been proposed by different people on likely causes for the reduction in crime:

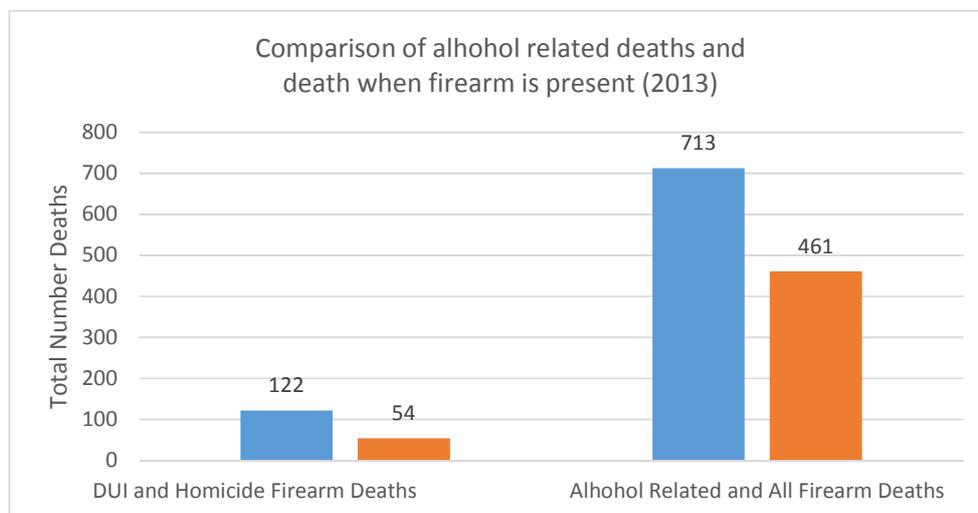
- Incarceration, Policing, Social Programs, Demographics, Unemployment Benefits, reduced crime opportunities (US crime rate is down: six key reasons, Husna Haq, Correspondent)^{vii}
- The reduction of lead^{viii} from gasoline and in our living environment^{ix}. (Did removing lead from petrol spark a decline in crime? , BBC News magazine) (U.S. Murder Rate On Track To Be Lowest In More Than 100 Years, Doug Mataconis)
- Increased reliance on prisons, increased number of police, crack becoming less popular. And while controversial, the legalization of abortion (Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors that Explain the Decline and Six that Do Not Steven D. Levitt)^x. Although in this authors opinion, the same reasons given for abortion can also fall under studies showing that basic goals like graduating from high school, getting a job and waiting to get married before having children decreases the chance of ending up in poverty to 2%.^{xi}

So why is a majority of the public ignorant of the tremendous reductions in crime? Fear, information overload, and people who feel the need to do something without knowing how to looking at the costs (not just \$) or break down the problem into solvable solutions.

In 1991 the public discovered the internet and the flow of information and news has never been the same. In some ways it has been a blessing as knowledge has never before been more accessible. But with it has also come a cost; Today, if someone has a comedic slip and fall in NY Times Square, we here on the west coast can see that little detail of daily life in 10 minutes (no citation needed here). Over and over again. A tragic accident happens in Florida, or Idaho? 24 hour news coverage across the world. Repeated so often that it's as if it happened next door in our own neighborhoods. Every time. Over and over again. Compound that with people who have built a life, career even, and identity during the gun-control movement of the 70's, 80's and 90's when crime used to be higher and people more desperate for solutions. Now those same groups of people are finding that they are needing to reach farther and farther for a reason to continue their campaign and existence.

Perspective and the volume control of the gun-control movement.

In 2013, per the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Oregon Health Authority, alcohol induced deaths (713 people) killed more people in Oregon than all gun deaths (461 people, includes suicide, homicide, accidents and legal intervention). Driving Under the Influence (DUI) related deaths (122 people)^{xii} killed more than homicides were a gun is used (54 people)^{xiii}. But from watching the news cycle and the people who want to push gun-control you would never know that alcohol was a bigger problem in Oregon than firearms. The difference? There is a lot more money being spent for gun-control, and it brings in the news story ratings. Why mention this? More than once the topic of "we need to approach gun-control like the way MADD did with drunk driving". MADD does have some very good approaches, but it's never gone so far as to call for ban's of alcohol, or placing breathelizers in car iginion systems as a solution. They HAVE been very successful with public education and promoting responsible adult behaviour when drinking.



For a final example of how the news media keeps the fear ginned up, Mother-Jones recently published an article titles "Yes, Mass Shootings Are Occurring More Often"^{xiv}. Its leading entry sets the tempo for the article:

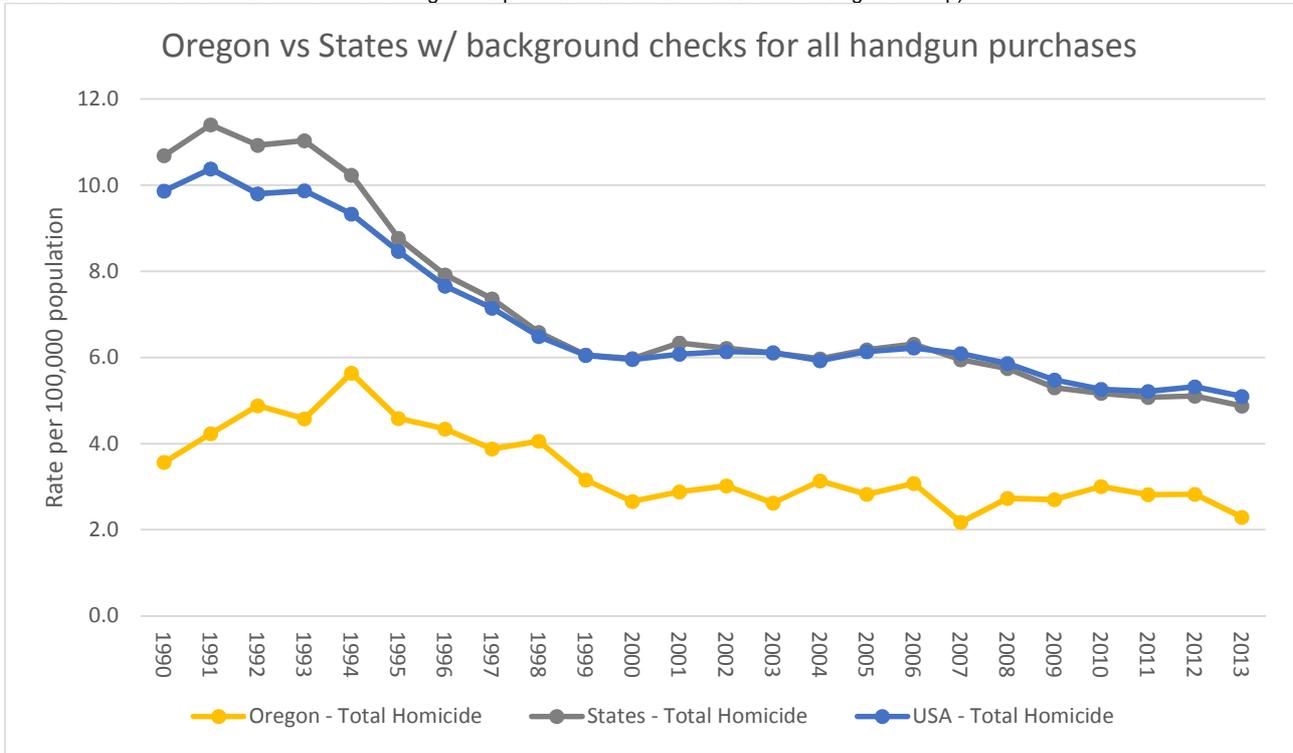
"It's not a matter of if, but when and where the next mass shooting will happen: It might take place at another shopping mall, or college campus, or suburban office building, and probably not long from now."

In other words, it could happen. To you. At any time. Fear. Act now. Gun-Control is the "common-sense" answer... But is it true? Dr. Grant Duwe, Director of Research and Evaluation for the Minnesota Department of Corrections (A criminologist professor) took note of the Mother Jones journalist's article and something didn't look right to him. As he had access to actual crime databases (Mother Jones limited their journalistic investigation to what they could find with general internet searches of news articles) he found that no, mass shootings are not on the rise.^{xv} And in fact the rate was even slightly decreasing. Maybe this is why it is rare to hear from a professors of criminology when gun-control is discussed by the media?

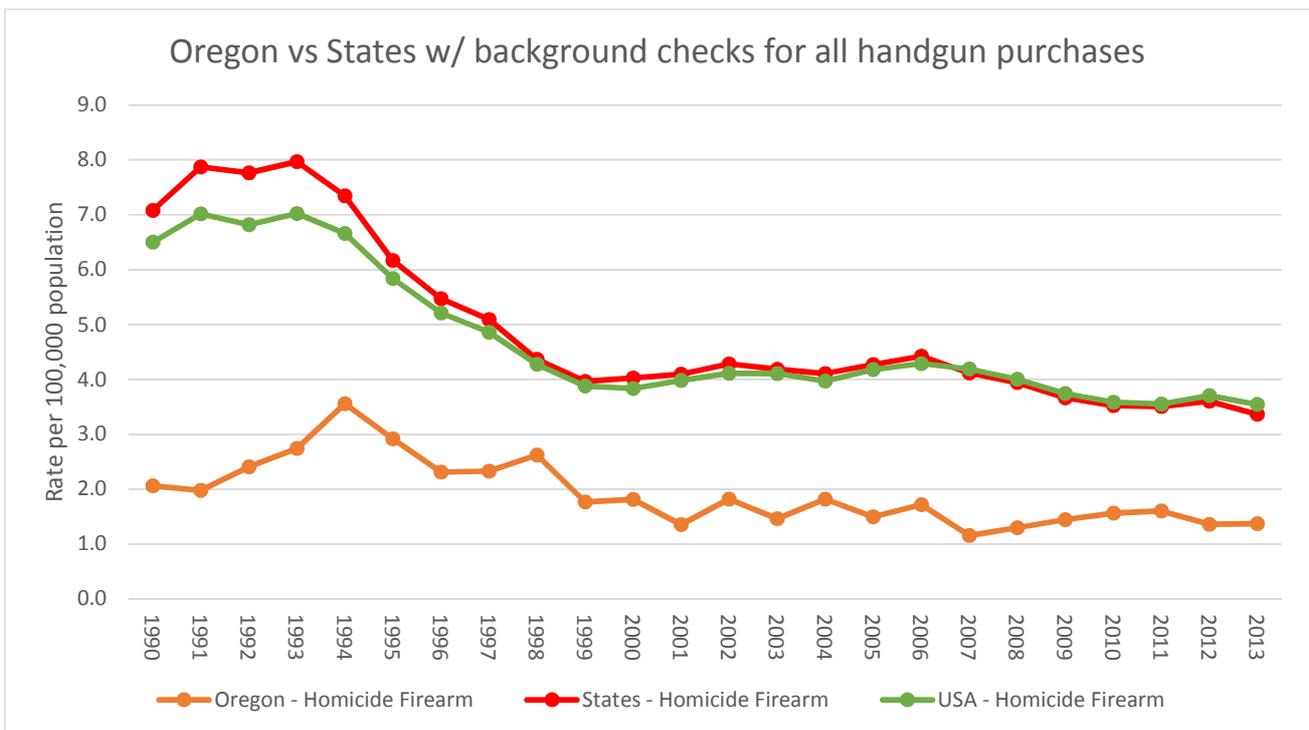
3 OREGON CRIME

Let's look at Oregon's Homicide Rate^{xvi} and compare it to states with background checks with all handguns sales^{xvii}. This is something I don't think people have actual seen that often and as you examine the graphs and charts below you will understand why some people wouldn't want it to be public knowledge. Why? In Oregon we are safer than the states with the additional gun-control laws people want here in Oregon.

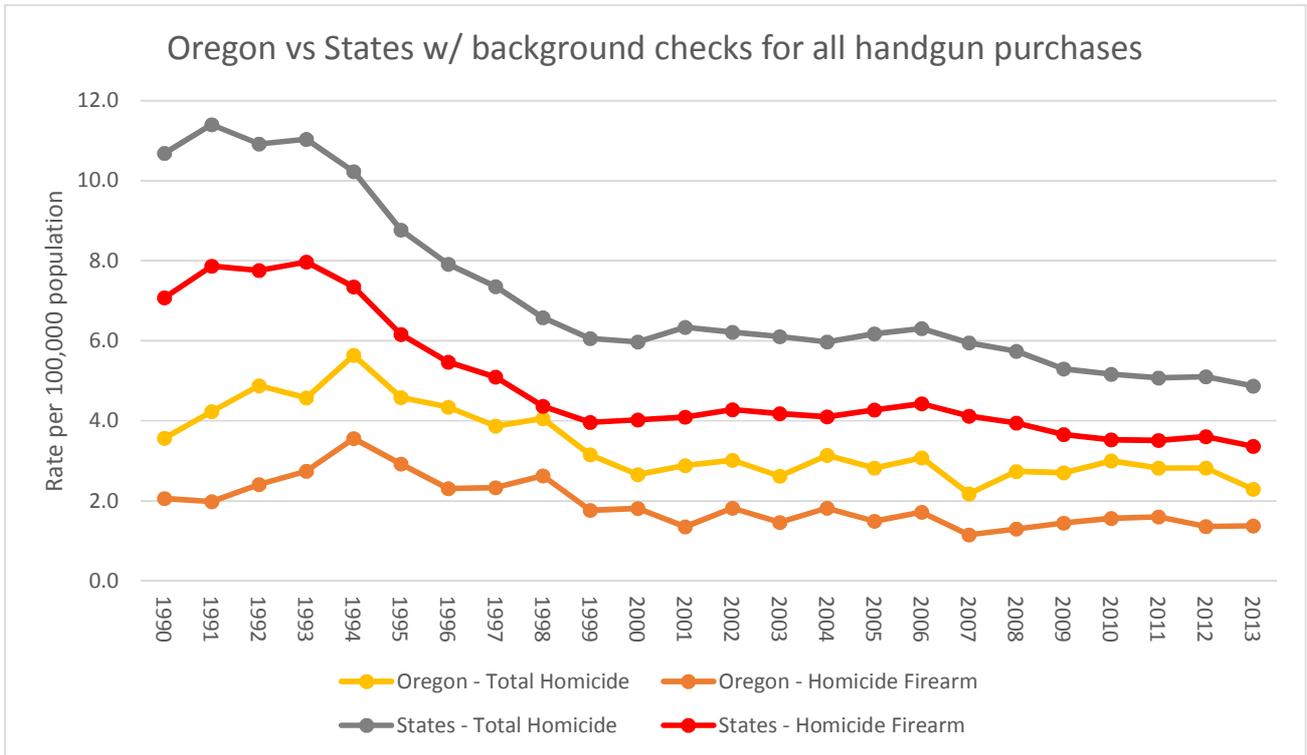
(Note1: on the source of data and States with background checks for all handguns: Homicide data from Center Disease and Control (CDC)^{xviii}. Specific crime data from Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reports^{xix})
 (Note2: 1990 was chosen as this was close to the general peak in crime for the USA before it began to drop)



And just for your information, here are the homicides committed by people with firearms for comparison.

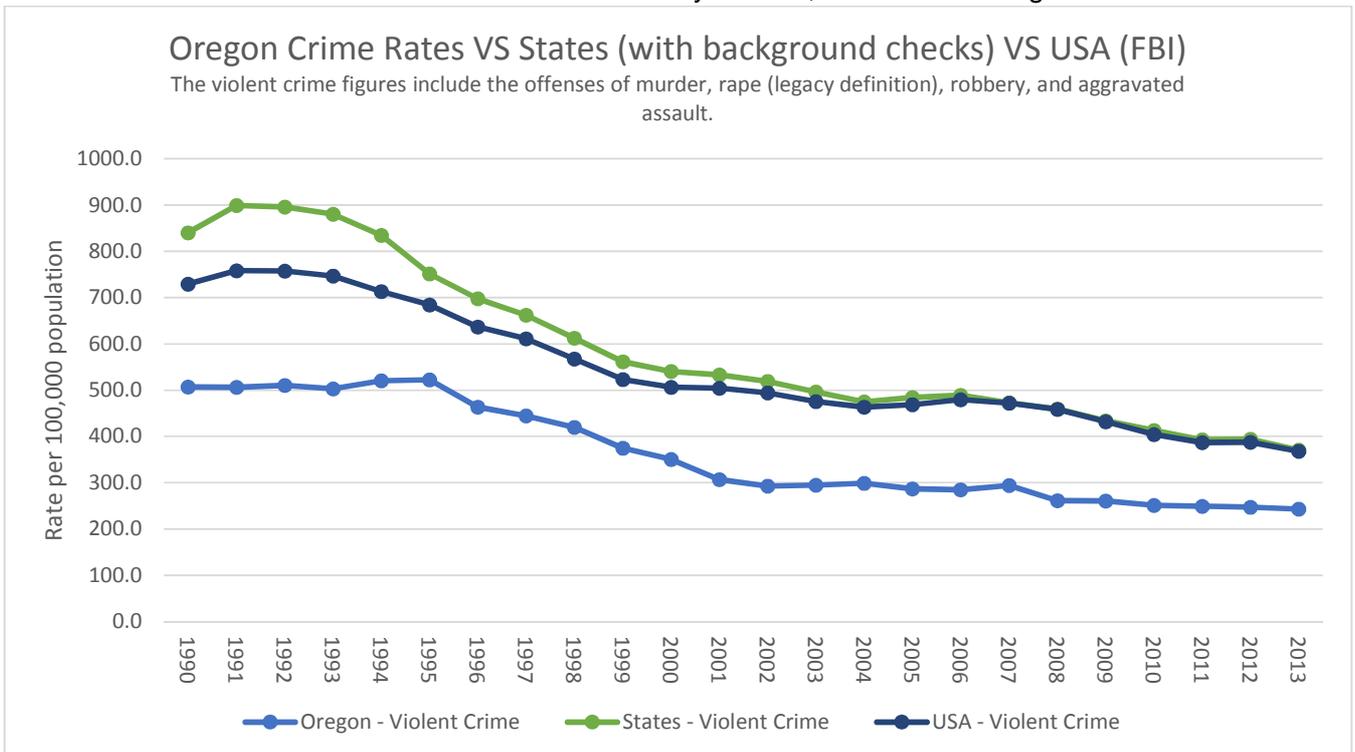


The following graph illustrates the homicide and homicide with a firearm committed by criminals in both Oregon and States with background checks for all gun sales.

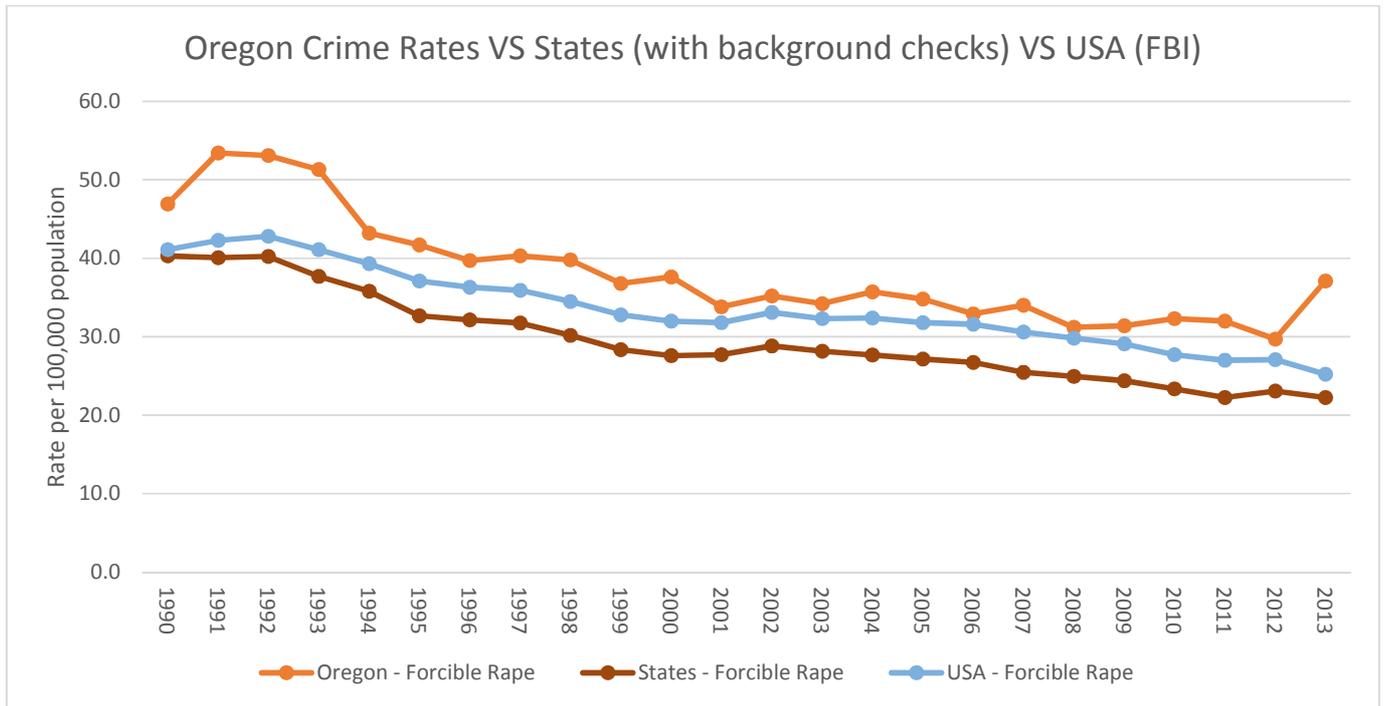


Challenge: Based just on the homicide data over the last 23 years, is Oregon a safer state than “states with background checks for all gun sales”?

Crime is measured in more ways than one. The FBI releases annual Uniform Crime Reports (UCR’s) that describe in more detail what specific crimes people are committing in different parts of the country. Here is the overall measurement of Violent Crime Rate by the FBI, and the subcategories for Violent Crime.

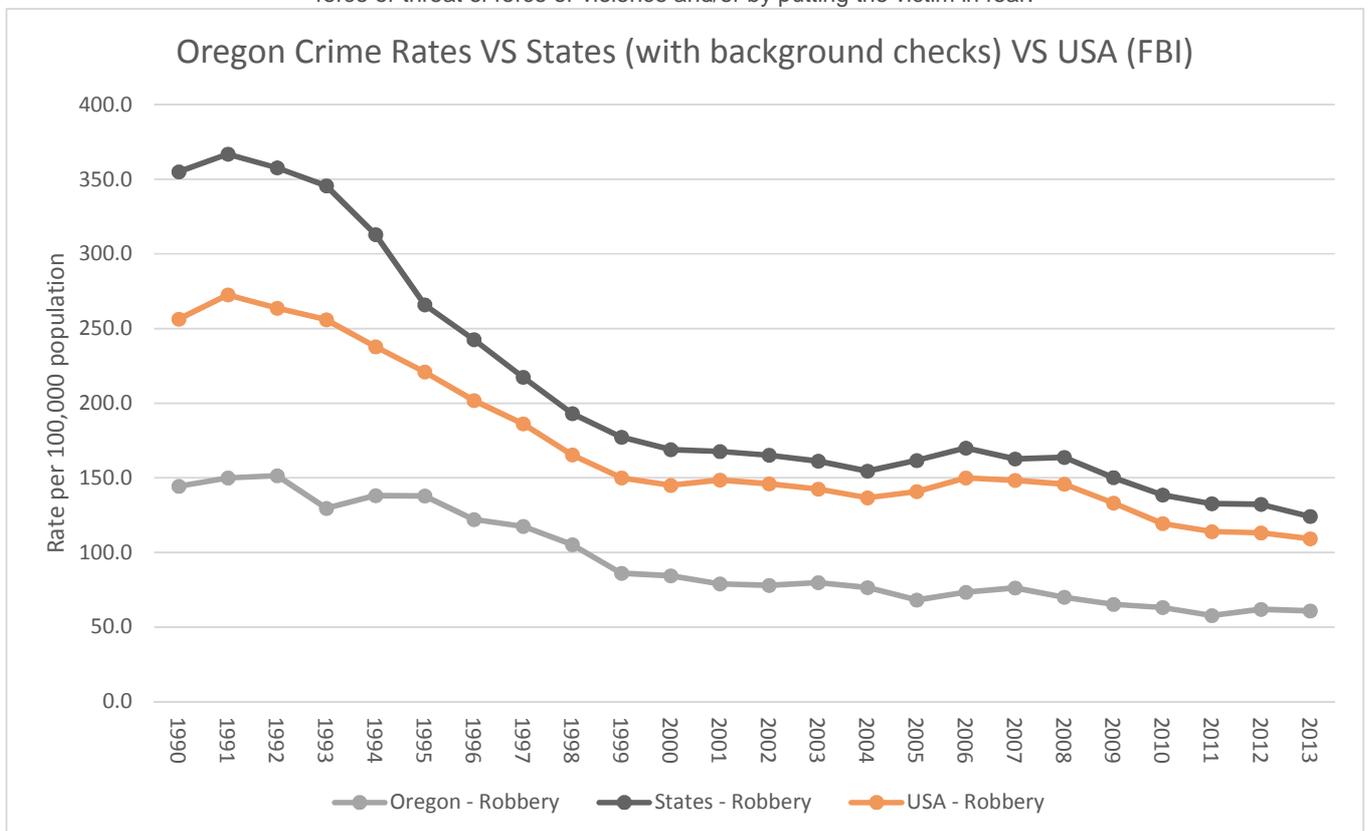


Forcible Rape Definition: The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Rapes by force and attempts or assaults to rape, regardless of the age of the victim, are included. Statutory offenses (no force used—victim under age of consent) are excluded^{xx}

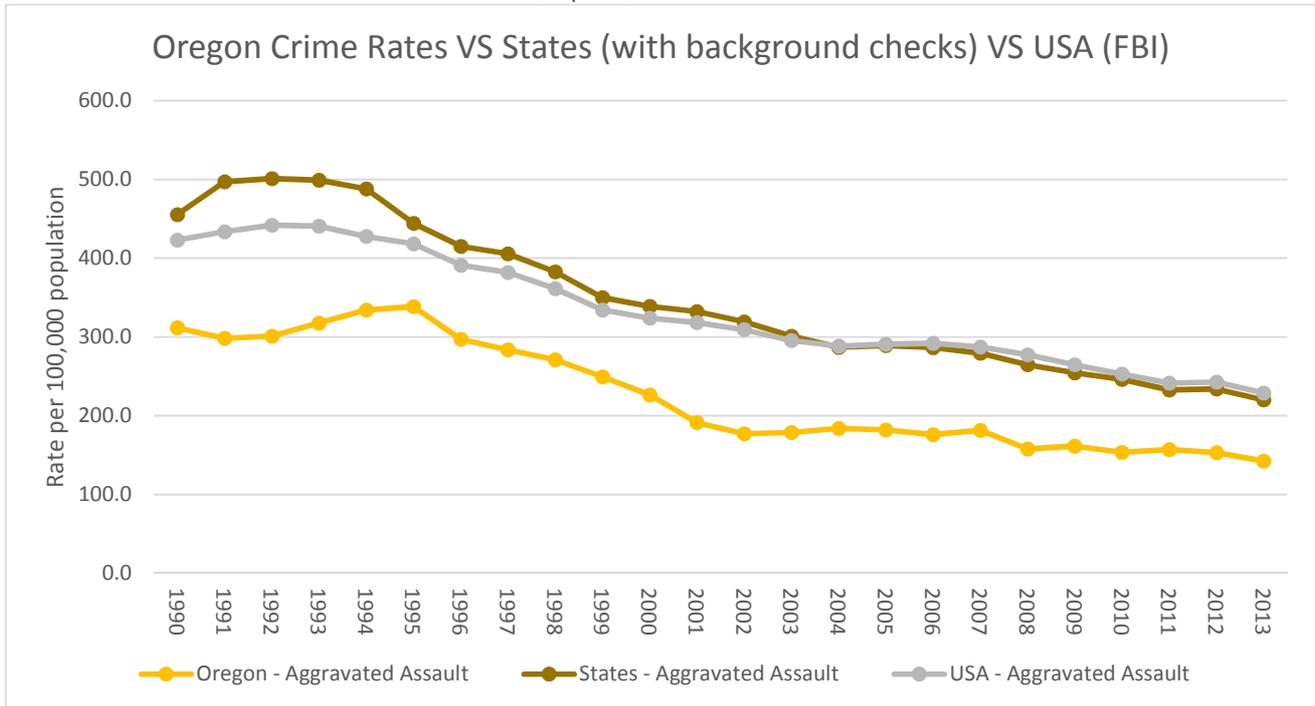


Oregon experienced a sharp rise in forcible rape in 2013? This is why it is important to analyze the problem. Oregon has been trending down steadily with the rest of the country, although it is lagging by about 2-5 years. 2013 is significant in that there was a sharp increase reported to the FBI not seen since 2000. Why?

Robbery Definition: The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. ^{xx}



Aggravated Assault Definition: An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Simple assaults are excluded.^{xx}



What about the comparison with the other 50 states? How does Oregon rank compared to the entire USA? Here's a snapshot from 2013, the last year that the CDC has released information on Homicide Rates (per CDC WISQARS) and the FBI UCR reporting (Violent Crime, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault) as of this reports writing. Also included is the percentage of households with firearms. The study for firearm ownership is a bit old (2002). But is the most recent comprehensive estimate of all states (there are subsequent studies, but not for all 50 states). And it is one commonly used by gun control lobbyists, so it will be used here as well. (Oregon's rate has been measured between 40% to 44%^{xxi}). The table is sorted based on the overall homicide rate. The safest state in the union (i.e. least likely to be killed in a violent act) is Vermont.

What are the yellow highlighted states? **States with Background Checks for All Handgun Purchases.**

Rank	State	Homicide Rate (CDC 2013, Age Adjusted) ^{xvi}	Homicide Gun Rate (CDC 2013, Age Adjusted) ^{xvi}	% Gun Ownership (2002) ^{xxii}	Brady Campaign (Grade 2013) ^{xxiii}	Violent Crime (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxiv}	Forcible Rape (Legacy Def.) (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxiv}	Robbery (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxiv}	Aggravated Assault (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxiv}
1	Vermont	1.6	0.6	45.5%	F	114.9	14.5	11.6	87.1
2	New Hampshire	1.7	0.5	30.5%	D-	199.6	36.2	49.0	112.7
3	North Dakota	1.8	0.8	54.3%	F	256.3	31.8	22.4	199.9
4	Utah	1.8	1.1	45.3%	F	209.2	34.3	42.8	130.4
5	Idaho	1.9	0.9	56.8%	F	204.7	28.3	13.6	161.0
6	Iowa	1.9	0.8	44.0%	C-	260.9	24.5	30.4	204.6
7	Massachusetts	2.2	1.3	12.8%	B+	404.0	31.2	100.2	270.5
8	Maine	2.3	1.0	41.1%	F	121.6	25.9	25.2	68.7
9	Oregon	2.3	1.4	39.8%	D+	242.9	37.1	61.0	142.7
10	Hawaii	2.4	0.5	9.7%	B+	245.3	21.1	80.6	142.2
11	South Dakota	2.4	0.4	59.9%	F	298.7	41.3	18.8	236.2
12	Minnesota	2.4	1.4	44.7%	C	223.2	25.9	67.8	127.5

Rank	State	Homicide Rate (CDC 2013, Age Adjusted) ^{xxvi}	Homicide Gun Rate (CDC 2013, Age Adjusted) ^{xxvi}	% Gun Ownership (2002) ^{xxv}	Brady Campaign (Grade 2013) ^{xxvi}	Violent Crime (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxvii}	Forcible Rape (Legacy Def.) (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxiv}	Robbery (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxiv}	Aggravated Assault (FBI UCR 2013) ^{xxiv}
13	Connecticut	2.8	1.8	16.2%	A-	254.5	18.6	98.2	135.4
14	Wyoming	2.9	1.5	62.8%	F	197.7	24.7	12.9	157.2
15	Washington	2.9	1.7	36.2%	C	277.9	25.8	83.5	166.4
16	Rhode Island	3.0	1.7	13.3%	B-	244.6	29.2	65.0	147.4
17	Wisconsin	3.1	2.0	44.3%	C-	271.1	22.6	84.2	161.6
18	Montana	3.3	1.4	61.4%	F	240.7	28.3	20.1	190.2
20	Colorado	3.5	2.0	34.5%	C	291.2	38.9	59.8	189.1
19	New York	3.5	1.9	18.1%	A-	389.8	13.1	138.6	234.7
21	West Virginia	4.0	2.3	57.9%	F	289.7	24.6	35.1	226.7
22	Nebraska	4.0	2.7	42.1%	D	252.2	33.0	55.7	160.5
23	Virginia	4.0	2.8	35.9%	D	187.9	19.1	55.3	109.7
24	Kansas	4.0	2.7	43.7%	F	327.5	28.9	46.6	248.1
25	Kentucky	4.6	3.1	48.0%	F	198.8	25.6	73.9	95.5
26	New Jersey	4.7	3.4	11.3%	A-	285.6	9.7	135.8	135.6
27	California	4.9	3.4	19.5%	A-	396.2	19.5	139.9	232.3
28	Pennsylvania	5.0	3.8	36.5%	C	326.6	20.7	115.6	185.7
29	Texas	5.1	3.5	35.9%	F	399.8	28.4	120.2	246.9
N/A	United States	5.2	3.6	32.6%	N/A	367.9	25.2	109.1	229.1
30	Nevada	5.4	3.2	31.5%	F	591.2	39.1	185.8	360.6
31	Ohio	5.6	3.9	32.1%	D	275.7	24.4	124.2	123.2
32	Delaware	5.6	4.1	26.7%	B-	479.1	28.7	132.4	313.7
33	North Carolina	5.7	4.2	40.8%	F	336.6	18.5	94.9	218.4
34	Alaska	5.9	2.6	60.6%	F	602.6	87.6	84.9	425.5
35	Arizona	5.9	3.8	36.2%	F	405.8	35.4	101.1	263.9
36	Florida	5.9	4.2	26.0%	F	460.0	24.1	118.7	312.3
37	Indiana	6.1	4.5	39.0%	D-	349.9	25.0	108.2	211.3
38	Illinois	6.2	4.5	19.7%	B	372.5	25.4	137.6	204.0
39	Tennessee	6.2	4.8	46.4%	F	579.7	25.3	112.5	436.9
40	Georgia	6.4	4.7	41.0%	F	359.7	19.9	125.0	209.3
41	Michigan	6.4	5.0	40.3%	C	429.8	46.5	102.1	274.8
42	New Mexico	6.5	3.9	39.6%	F	596.7	54.0	86.8	449.9
43	Missouri	6.5	4.9	45.4%	F	422.0	26.5	90.7	298.7
44	South Carolina	6.7	5.1	45.0%	F	494.8	31.8	83.2	373.6
45	Oklahoma	6.7	4.6	44.6%	F	428.1	43.5	78.7	300.8
46	Maryland	7.1	5.0	22.1%	A-	467.8	19.9	169.5	272.0
47	Arkansas	7.2	5.1	58.3%	F	445.7	33.6	76.3	330.5
48	Alabama	8.6	6.6	57.2%	D-	418.1	29.5	96.2	285.2
49	Mississippi	9.7	7.2	54.3%	F	267.4	23.9	80.5	156.5
50	Louisiana	11.9	9.6	45.6%	F	510.4	26.9	119.9	352.8
51	District of Columbia	13.9	9.4	5.2%	N/A*	1281.9	42.7	630.8	592.5

*Brady Campaign does not include DC as part of their grading for the USA.

Notice a trend here? Or rather a lack of? Those states with background checks just do not look to be that much safer. The table also exposes a second trend worth knowing: The Brady Campaign Score Card letter grades. There is no rhyme or reason to the ranking of the states in relation to the grade. If the laws were actually effective they would have a measurable effect on the crimes being committed in the states. But there is no correlation when it comes to crime. So what is the Brady Campaign score card actually measuring? What earns an 'A', and what earns a 'D'? What the grades mean is if the Brady campaign LIKES a particular law. It is not a scoring system based on if the laws are actually effective or not. Yes, that is correct. It is a score card for a popularity contest.

Let's look at the above FBI crime metrics, sorted from least (safest) to greatest crime, and ask the question; where should Oregon be concentrating its crime fighting resources on? Which States should we be looking at for answers? And are we really safer than "states with background checks"? Why are we trying to model our state laws after states with higher crime rates? Shouldn't we be looking at states with low crime rates and see how they got there? Or look for states with large, measurable drops in crime for ideas?

State	Violent crime (FBI UCR 2013)	State	Forcible Rape (Legacy Def.) (FBI UCR 2013)	State	Robbery (FBI UCR 2013)	State	Aggravated Assault (FBI UCR 2013)
Vermont	114.9	New Jersey	9.7	Vermont	11.6	Maine	68.7
Maine	121.6	New York	13.1	Wyoming	12.9	Vermont	87.1
Virginia	187.9	Vermont	14.5	Idaho	13.6	Kentucky	95.5
Wyoming	197.7	North Carolina	18.5	South Dakota	18.8	Virginia	109.7
Kentucky	198.8	Connecticut	18.6	Montana	20.1	New Hampshire	112.7
New Hampshire	199.6	Virginia	19.1	North Dakota	22.4	Ohio	123.2
Idaho	204.7	California	19.5	Maine	25.2	Minnesota	127.5
Utah	209.2	Georgia	19.9	Iowa	30.4	Utah	130.4
Minnesota	223.2	Maryland	19.9	West Virginia	35.1	Connecticut	135.4
Montana	240.7	Pennsylvania	20.7	Utah	42.8	New Jersey	135.6
Oregon	242.9	Hawaii	21.1	Kansas	46.6	Hawaii	142.2
Rhode Island	244.6	Wisconsin	22.6	New Hampshire	49.0	Oregon	142.7
Hawaii	245.3	Mississippi	23.9	Virginia	55.3	Rhode Island	147.4
Nebraska	252.2	Florida	24.1	Nebraska	55.7	Mississippi	156.5
Connecticut	254.5	Ohio	24.4	Colorado	59.8	Wyoming	157.2
North Dakota	256.3	Iowa	24.5	Oregon	61.0	Nebraska	160.5
Iowa	260.9	West Virginia	24.6	Rhode Island	65.0	Idaho	161.0
Mississippi	267.4	Wyoming	24.7	Minnesota	67.8	Wisconsin	161.6
Wisconsin	271.1	Indiana	25.0	Kentucky	73.9	Washington	166.4
Ohio	275.7	United States	25.2	Arkansas	76.3	Pennsylvania	185.7
Washington	277.9	Tennessee	25.3	Oklahoma	78.7	Colorado	189.1
New Jersey	285.6	Illinois	25.4	Mississippi	80.5	Montana	190.2
West Virginia	289.7	Kentucky	25.6	Hawaii	80.6	North Dakota	199.9
Colorado	291.2	Washington	25.8	South Carolina	83.2	Illinois	204.0
South Dakota	298.7	Maine	25.9	Washington	83.5	Iowa	204.6
Pennsylvania	326.6	Minnesota	25.9	Wisconsin	84.2	Georgia	209.3
Kansas	327.5	Missouri	26.5	Alaska	84.9	Indiana	211.3
North Carolina	336.6	Louisiana	26.9	New Mexico	86.8	North Carolina	218.4
Indiana	349.9	Idaho	28.3	Missouri	90.7	West Virginia	226.7

State	Violent crime (FBI UCR 2013)
Georgia	359.7
United States	367.9
Illinois	372.5
New York	389.8
California	396.2
Texas	399.8
Massachusetts	404.0
Arizona	405.8
Alabama	418.1
Missouri	422.0
Oklahoma	428.1
Michigan	429.8
Arkansas	445.7
Florida	460.0
Maryland	467.8
Delaware	479.1
South Carolina	494.8
Louisiana	510.4
Tennessee	579.7
Nevada	591.2
New Mexico	596.7
Alaska	602.6
District of Columbia	1281.9

State	Forcible Rape (Legacy Def.) (FBI UCR 2013)
Montana	28.3
Texas	28.4
Delaware	28.7
Kansas	28.9
Rhode Island	29.2
Alabama	29.5
Massachusetts	31.2
North Dakota	31.8
South Carolina	31.8
Nebraska	33.0
Arkansas	33.6
Utah	34.3
Arizona	35.4
New Hampshire	36.2
Oregon	37.1
Colorado	38.9
Nevada	39.1
South Dakota	41.3
District of Columbia	42.7
Oklahoma	43.5
Michigan	46.5
New Mexico	54.0
Alaska	87.6

State	Robbery (FBI UCR 2013)
North Carolina	94.9
Alabama	96.2
Connecticut	98.2
Massachusetts	100.2
Arizona	101.1
Michigan	102.1
Indiana	108.2
United States	109.1
Tennessee	112.5
Pennsylvania	115.6
Florida	118.7
Louisiana	119.9
Texas	120.2
Ohio	124.2
Georgia	125.0
Delaware	132.4
New Jersey	135.8
Illinois	137.6
New York	138.6
California	139.9
Maryland	169.5
Nevada	185.8
District of Columbia	630.8

State	Aggravated Assault (FBI UCR 2013)
United States	229.1
California	232.3
New York	234.7
South Dakota	236.2
Texas	246.9
Kansas	248.1
Arizona	263.9
Massachusetts	270.5
Maryland	272.0
Michigan	274.8
Alabama	285.2
Missouri	298.7
Oklahoma	300.8
Florida	312.3
Delaware	313.7
Arkansas	330.5
Louisiana	352.8
Nevada	360.6
South Carolina	373.6
Alaska	425.5
Tennessee	436.9
New Mexico	449.9
District of Columbia	592.5

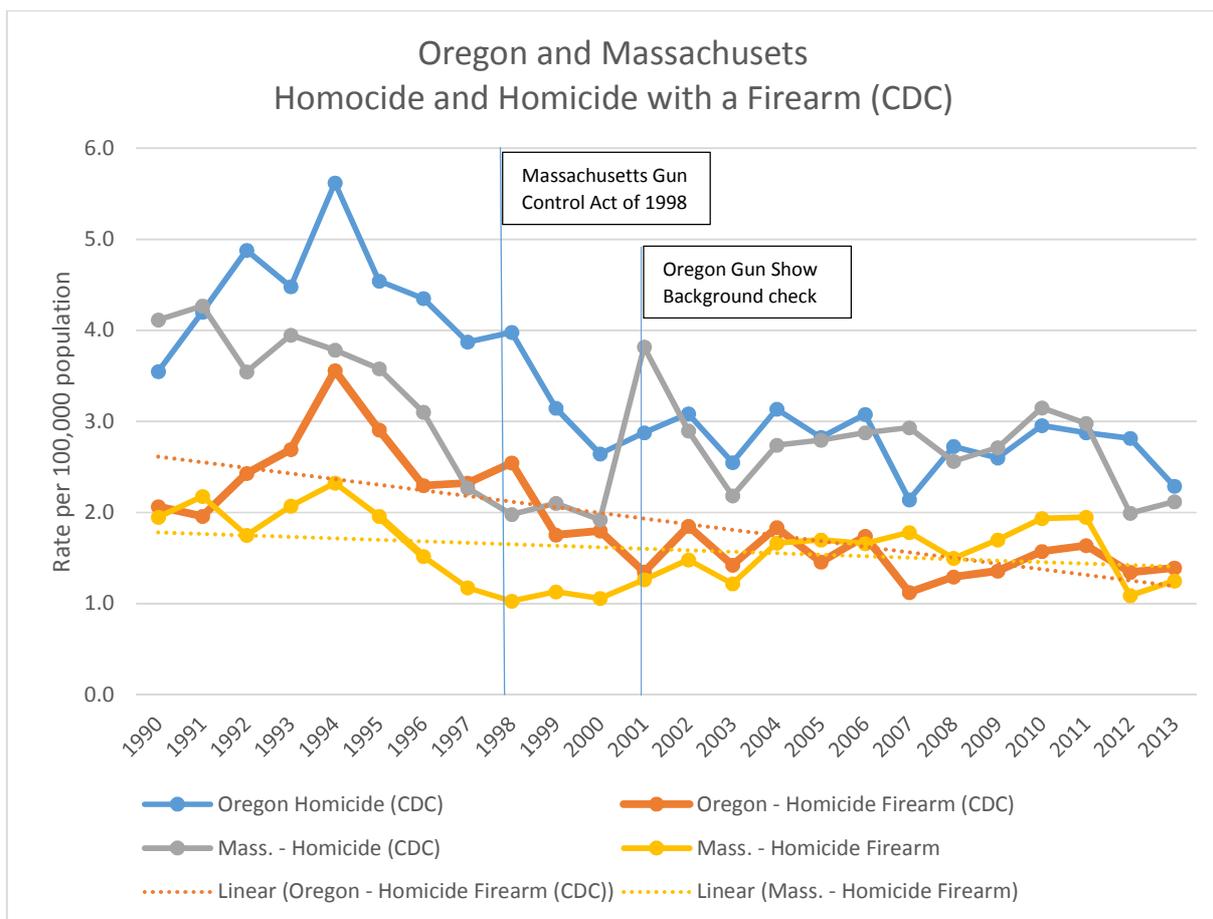
Vermont, Wyoming, Idaho, Maine: These are just some of the state that we should be looking at to find out why it's working for them.

Speaking of breaking down a problem: A special Mention should be made regarding a couple of the yellow states:

- **Iowa**, despite having background checks for all handgun purchases, does not have a lot of other gun control laws that groups like Brady and Everytown® push for. In fact the Brady Campaign gave it a "C-" in 2013.^{xxii} Despite the low rating (i.e. lack of populist gun-control laws), the Iowan's crime rates are pretty low compared to the rest of the nation. Maybe there is something more than just the simple answer of "more gun-control laws" at work?
- **Colorado**? Colorado is a new addition in 2013 when several gun-control bills were passed in the capital along partisan divides from the House to the Senate to the Governor's office. It was quite messy and the state is still feeling the political effects. I'm sure "gun-sense" promoters will be eager to take credit for the states low natural crime rates in future twitter 'reports'. However, the debate is not over yet. Even the Governor of Colorado soon started to backpedal after admitting to a group of county sheriffs that the background check bill was passed without understanding basic facts^{xxviii}. And now, some of the gun-control laws that were passed in 2013 are with extremely partisan divides, are now on the path to being repealed with bi-partisan support from both democrats and republicans for both the expanded background checks^{xxix} and the ambiguous magazine ban^{xxx}.

Oh, and ever hear about the “40% of gun sales don’t go thru background checks”? Without going into why the Washington post gave this statement 3ea Pinocchio’s when President Obama repeated it in 2013^{xxxix}, Colorado ended up having a budget overrun in the millions based on that theory. What did the state of Colorado discover? Very, very few guns were sold thru private sales. 6.5% of the estimated original figure, to be precise.^{xxxix} How many of us would pass a test if we failed 93% of the questions? How many of us would be considered trust-worthy or logical if we staked our claims on such wild speculations?

- **Massachusetts** has rates just slightly lower than Oregon’s. But that wasn’t always the case over the last 10 years, as seen below. Massachusetts is a state worth looking at as they did experience an actual drop in crime based on the proactive actions of their state.

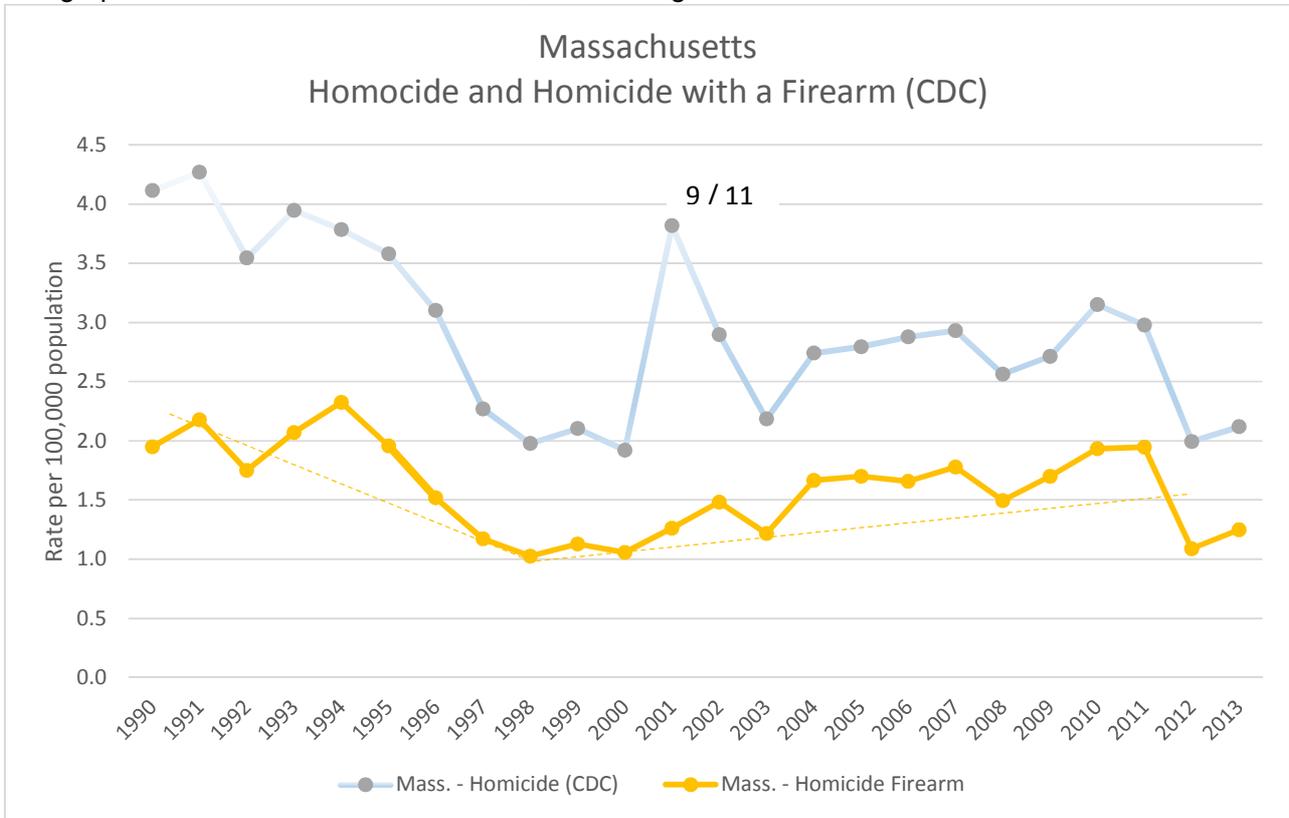


“Gun-sense” would be getting pretty dizzy with this one as it might try to spin the story back and between the two. How can a state with some of the most stringent gun laws and low household gun ownership have a homicide rate so close to Oregon’s; a state with three times the gun ownership and only a fraction of the gun-control laws? Not only that, review the graph for what happened in Massachusetts when the state passed the 1998 Gun Control Act^{xxxix}. There were several new provisions and restrictions on LEGAL gun owners without criminal records, like gun bans, magazine restrictions, and new firearm ID card system to name a few. Many things now being proposed or desired in Oregon. Oh, and Massachusetts has had background checks as part of their legal system since 1968. Plenty of time to see how well all the promises of background checks worked out for them.

“They were just creating this huge set of laws that dealt with lawful people — what you can and can’t do — rather than focusing on the criminal element,” - Jim Wallace, executive director of the Gun Owners’ Action League. ^{xxxiv}

Before the Massachusetts 1998 Gun Control Act, homicides and homicides with guns were dropping along with the rest of the country. After the law went into effect (it was phased in over 2 years) it INCREASED for the next 12 years! 12 years is a very long time to keep wishing “it’s working”. Can someone explain where the success of “gun-sense” makes common sense? Why would our state want to follow the lead of Massachusetts for more gun-control?

Here’s a graph with trend lines for 1990-1998, and then again from 1998 to 2013.



It wasn’t until 2012 that there was a substantial drop. Was it more gun control that caused the change? No. Law enforcement used smarter tactics and started teaming up with the community groups like^{xxxv} Roca^{xxxvi} and North Suffolk Mental Health Association^{xxxvii} to work with at risk teens in the 17-24 age group range before they followed a life of gangs, drugs and/or general crime^{xxxviii} (i.e. targeting the individuals most likely to commit crimes, and not the general public as background checks does).

“The relationship between ROCA and the Police Department has been a ‘game-changer.’ We set joint goals, communicate regularly and train together to maximize our overriding goals of increasing safety in the community while promoting a better way of life for young people that may have been mixed up in bad things,”
 -Chelsea Police Chief Kyes.

“I admire what the schools are doing, how effective The Neighborhood Developers neighborhood work is and efforts like those being waged by the Collaborative to help young people lead better lives, MGH to combat drug addiction and North Suffolk Mental Health to help those with mental health needs in our community.”
 - Molly Baldwin, Roca’s Executive Director

Focusing on programs that target the at risk to turn them away from a life of crime before they become criminals in order to make safer communities, instead of targeting a population that is already by and large law abiding. THAT’s common sense. And it’s demonstrated that it works.

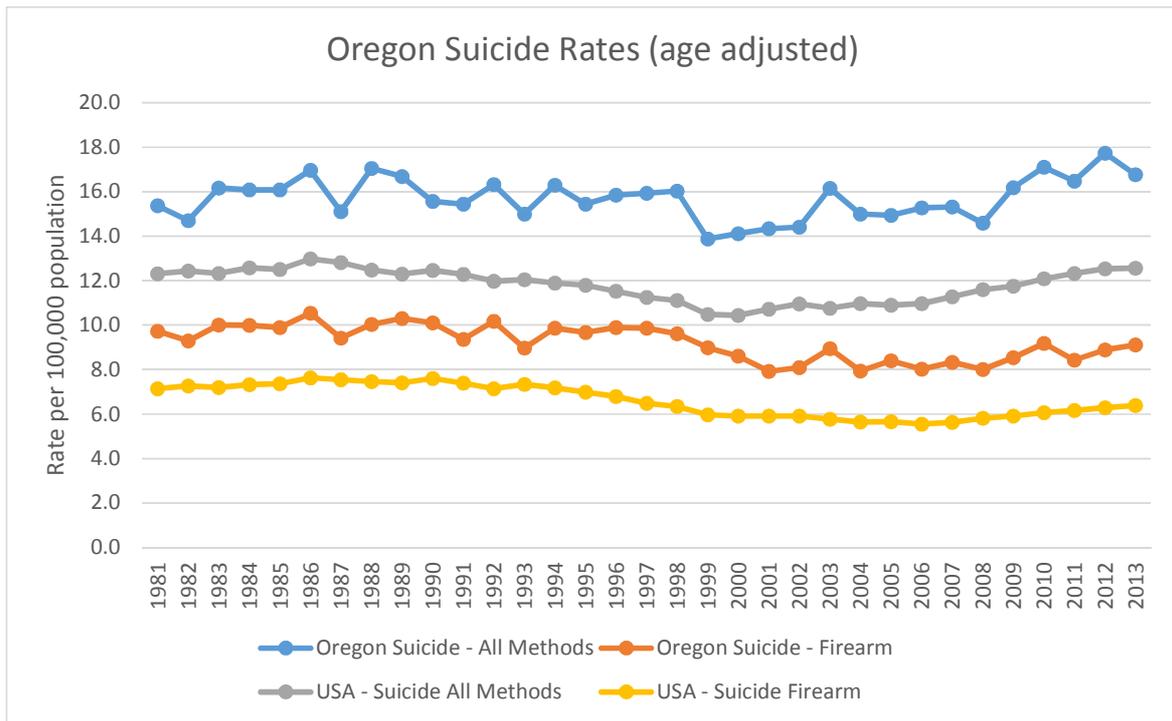
And THIS is an example of what we should be looking for if crime reduction is the real ultimate goal.

Other cities and states with similar stories include Aurora IL: 2nd largest city in Illinois, which did not have a single murder in 2012^{xxxix}. Or Richmond, CA having the 9th highest murder rate in 2007, but now experiencing a 66% drop^{xl}. Or Michael Bloomberg himself, and his funding of NOLA (New Orleans Louisiana) For Life^{xli} program. It has seen great success in reducing murder and crime rates by targeting root causes that push people towards crime^{xlii}.

4 OREGON SUICIDE AND MENTAL HEALTH. OR THE REAL KILLER IN OREGON.

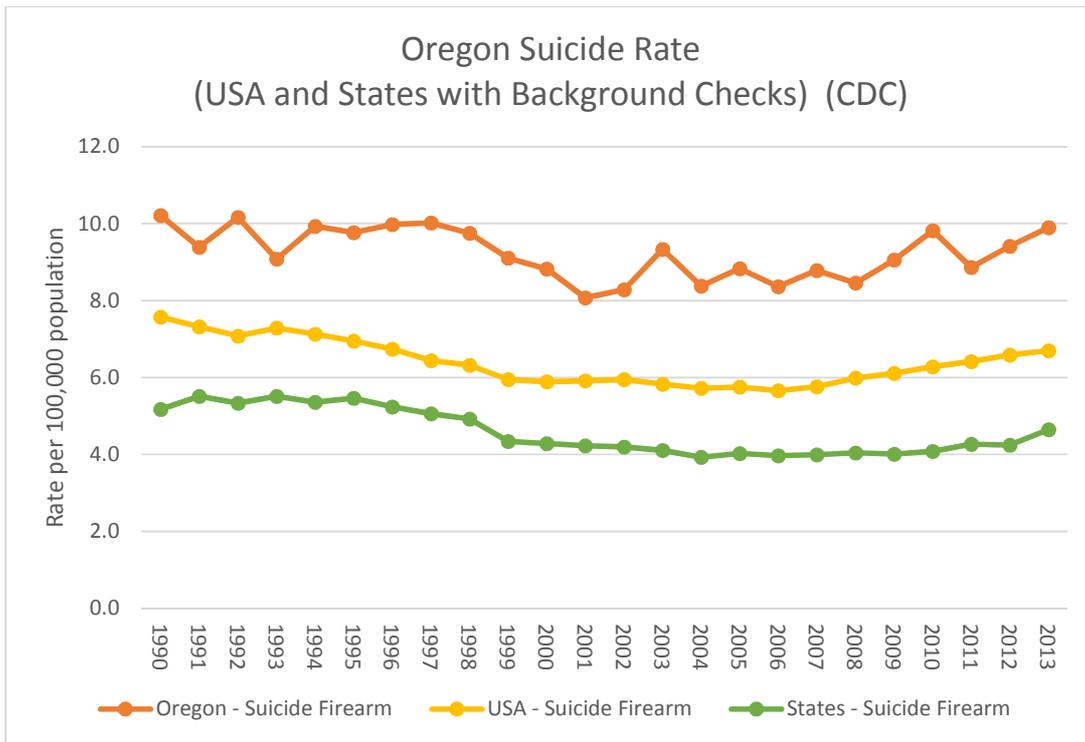
Suicide: or the act of killing once self. It is also the leading cause of death with a firearm in Oregon. And it's increasing. How much? Looking at the Center of Disease and Control (CDC) WISQARS^{xvi} system, it is the worst it has been since at least the 1980's (oldest year reported in WISQARS system). The only silver lining: suicide by gun deaths, as a percentage of the total, have gone down. Overall it is an epidemic that has not gotten much attention. Instead of having a discussion about saving the lives of mentally distraught people, we are constantly bombarded by gun-control messages telling us we are living in a crime wave and that the only way to protect ourselves is more gun-control laws. In reality, violent crime is down 49% since the 1990'sⁱ. Meanwhile the suicide rate nationwide has almost surpassed what it was in the 1980's, and continues to increase^{xliii}. Oregon has already surpassed that point!

Here's the graph of Oregon, with the USA rates for comparison.

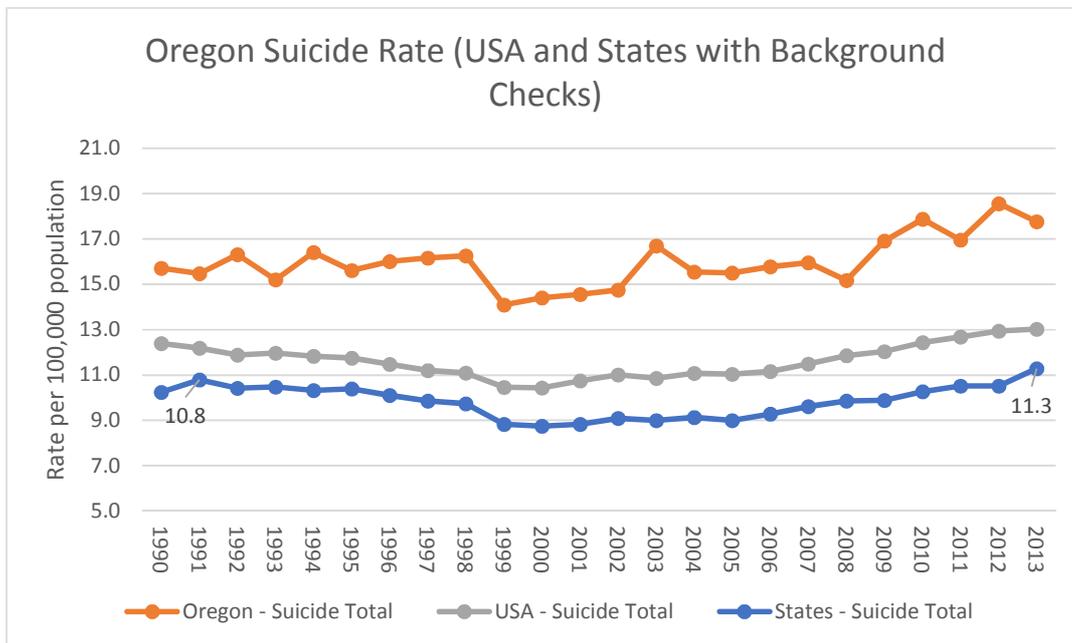


What could save us? Have you heard the twitter post “States with background checks for all handgun purchases have 48% fewer suicides.”? Sounds pretty amazing, doesn't it! But what happens if we look beyond the single number that Eveytown[®] attempts to use to describe a very complicated problem?

Here's what the suicide with a firearm trends looks like since 1990. The rate IS lower for the "States with background checks". Many of these states have as much as a quarter of the gun-ownership rate as of Oregon^{xxii}. But even these states are not immune to the increase in suicides.



Here we see that, in our range from 1990 to 2013, the total amount of suicides in states with background checks have exceeded what they were in 1990! How can this be if background checks are in place and working?

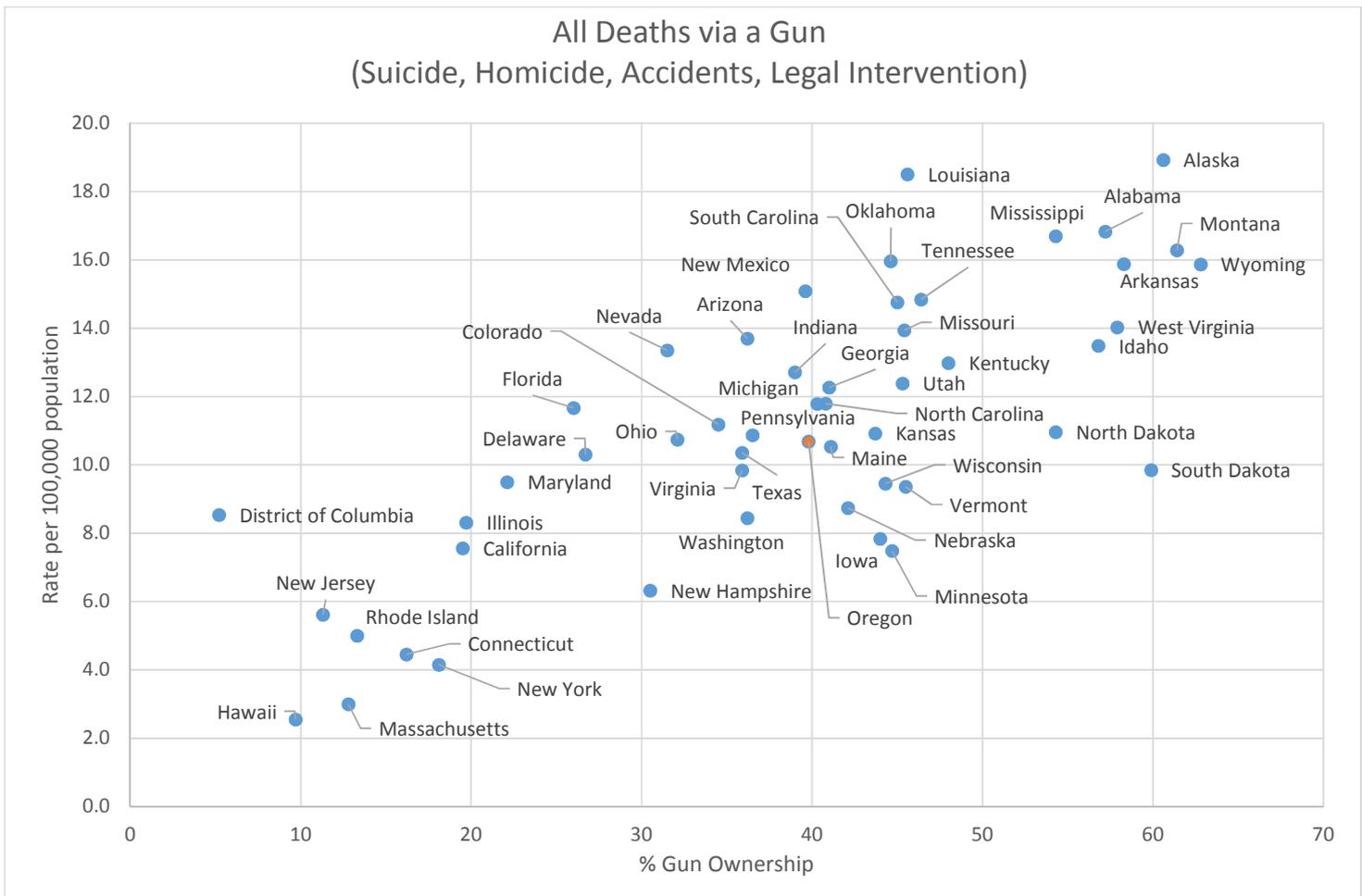


5 QUALITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

Or How Gun Control Groups Attempt to Take Credit for Work Not their Own and Distract the Public from Real Solutions That Save Lives.

The Violence Policy Center (VPC) recently released a report titled “States with Weak Gun Laws and Higher Gun Ownership Lead Nation in Gun Deaths, New Data for 2013 Confirms”^{xliv}. In the report the VPC conclude that “states with the lowest overall gun death rates have lower rates of gun ownership and some of the strongest gun violence prevention laws in the nation.” Note: they include at ALL gun deaths (suicide, homicide, accidents and legal interventions). Which is a shame as they promote gun-control via crime reduction, when suicide is the leading cause. What can we learn from the VPC’s report? Quite a bit actually, although not what the VPC wants people like you to understand. Note: Washington DC has been added to the analysis as it IS a part of the continental US and is governed as a separate territory, as if it were its own state.

The following is a scatter plot of the VPC data on % gun ownership and “gun death rate” for 2013. A scatter plot does not establish a trend, but does show relationships between data points when looking at two variables. Unsurprisingly, right up there with studies that show fishermen eat more fish and people who drive cars are more likely to get in a car accident, states with fewer firearms tend to have fewer firearm deaths.



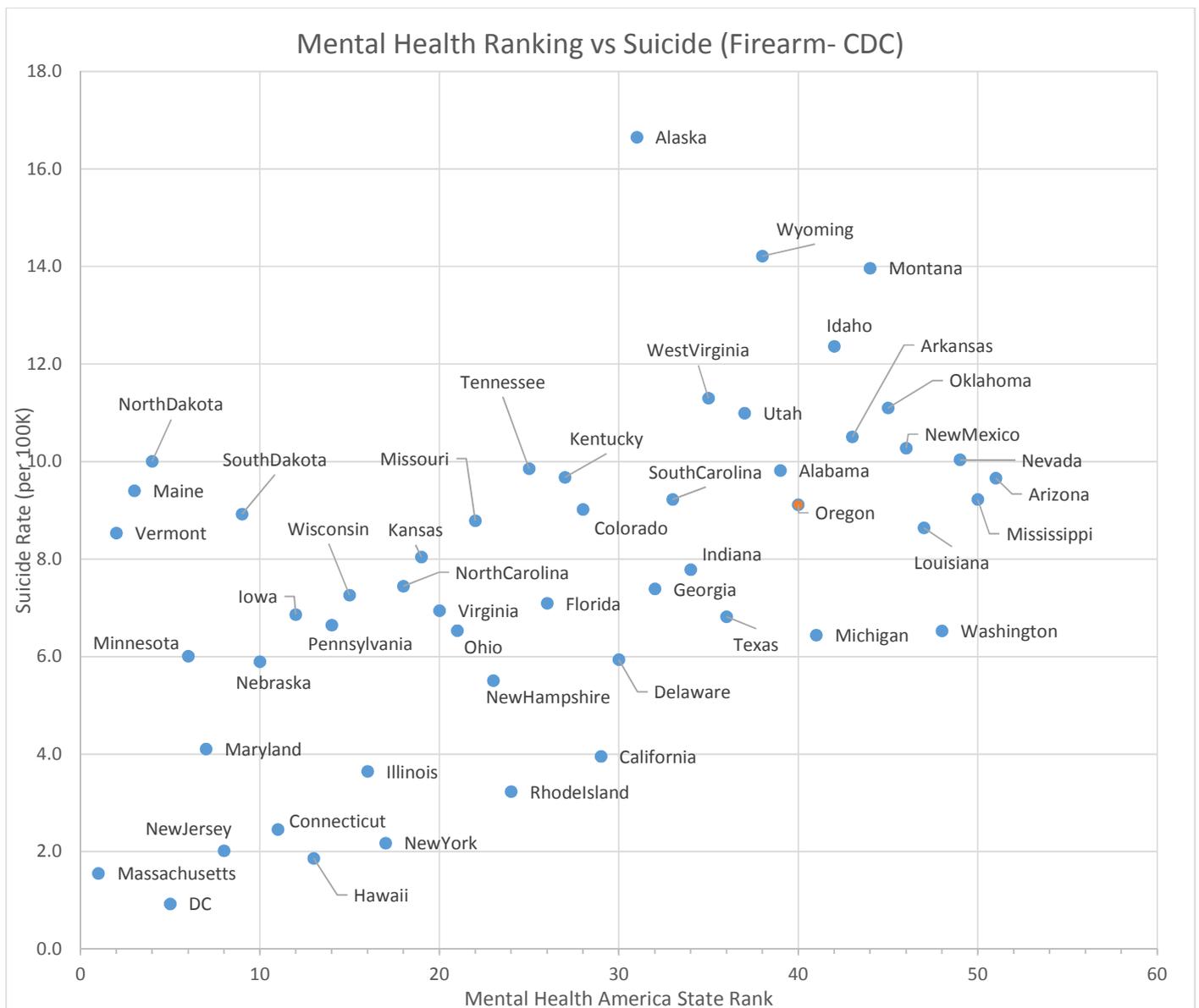
Wow. Look at all those states with background checks in the lower left corner with low rates of “gun deaths”. Those states with background checks must be onto something correct, right? But we are not done with the whole story. What happens if we break out suicide and homicides (as they should be) to better define the problem? Let’s look at the next chart that just shows Suicide.

California. The gun-control states may have a low % of gun owners (x-axis), but are pretty evenly spread out thru the rest of the pack when it comes to homicide rates with a gun (Y-axis).

But what has this really got to do with suicide? One more scatter plot. This time we plot suicide deaths via a firearm vs states with the best mental health services, per Mental Health America^{xiv}. Mental Health America (MHA) is, according to their “about us” page;

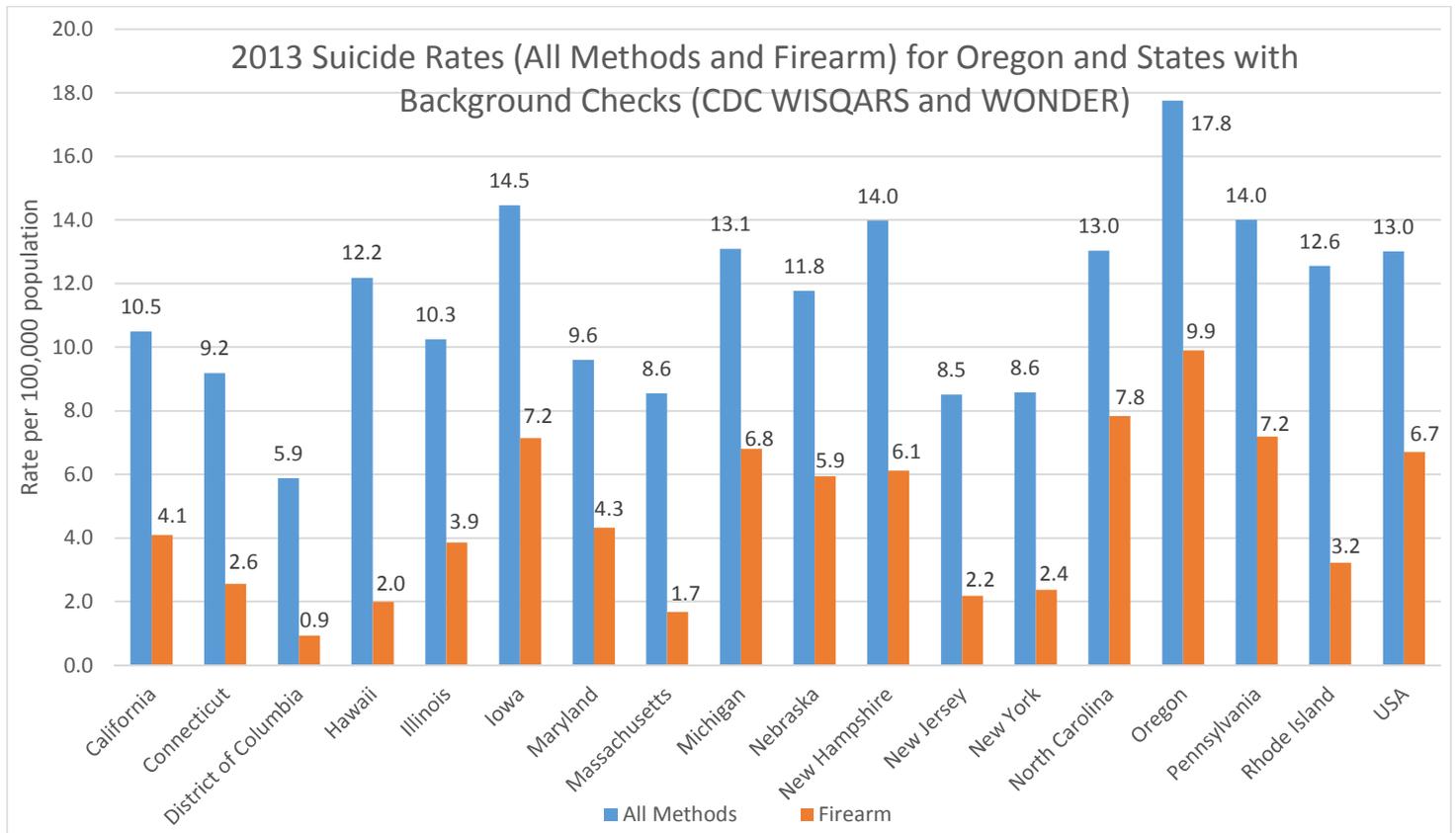
“founded in 1909 – is the nation’s leading community-based non-profit dedicated to helping all Americans achieve wellness by living mentally healthier lives . Our work is driven by our commitment to promote mental health as a critical part of overall wellness, including prevention services for all, early identification and intervention for those at risk, and integrated care and treatment for those who need it, with recovery as the goal.”

The overall mental health state ranking were taken from the rather detailed mental health. The Suicide Rate (firearm) continues to be on the y-axis. States are ranked on the X-axis from 1 (best) to 51 (worst). Notice a pattern? Notice where Oregon is ranked? It seems to me that the Gun-control groups are attempting to take credit for the hard work and efforts performed by the mental health care professions of those states with the best ranks!



While this scatter plot does not quite overlay “suicides by firearm”, it is fairly similar. Notice where Oregon, with its high suicide (and increasing) is located.

Here is a final bar graph showing the rates of suicide for all methods that a person may use, and suicide when a person uses a firearm.



6 OREGON DEATHS WHEN A FIREARM IS USED: STATE ONLY EXAMINATION

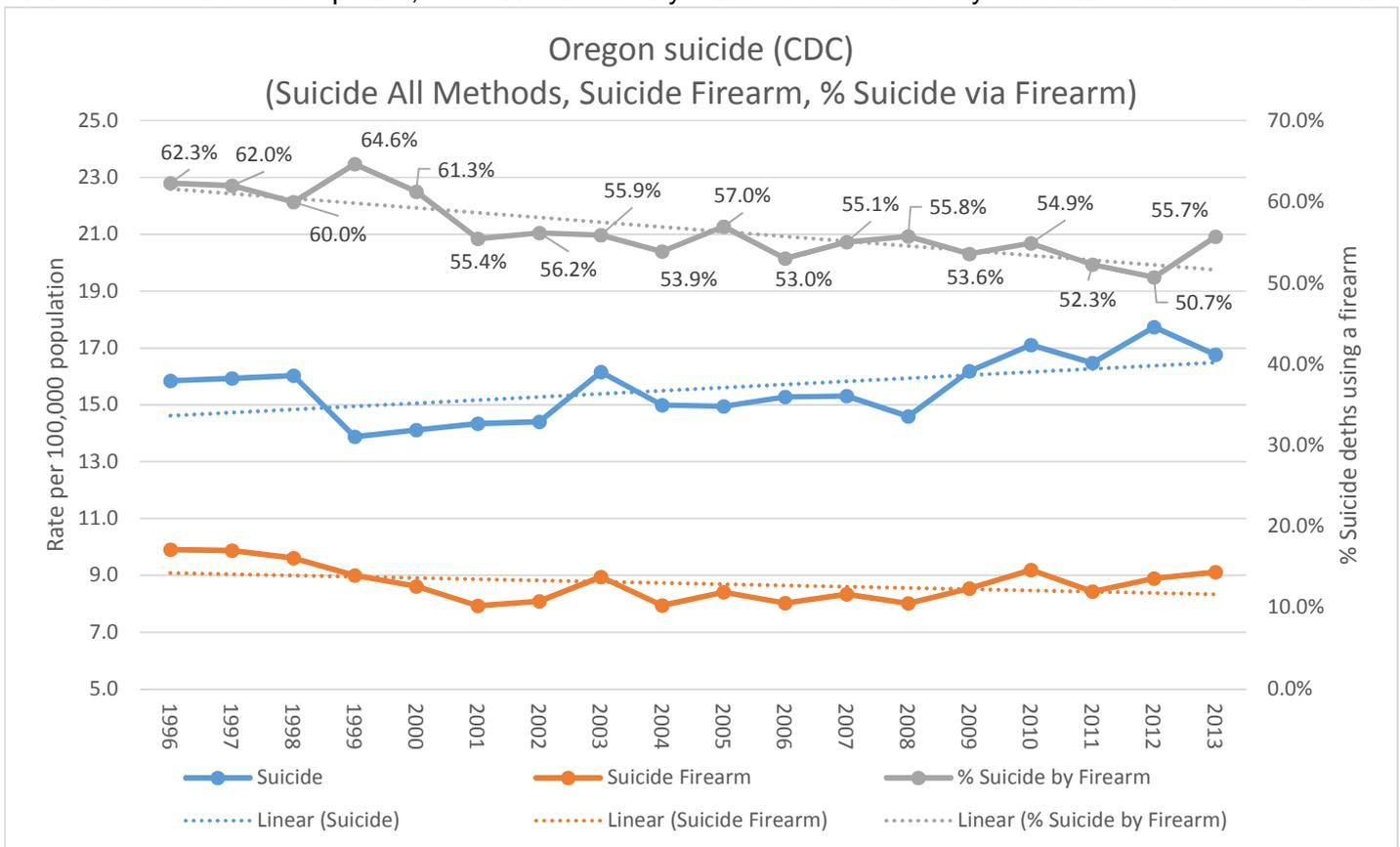
First, the overall trend in Oregon^{xlvi}. Of the firearm fatalities in Oregon, the general breakdown (from 2003 to 2012) are:

Method	Percent
Suicide	82%
Homicide	14%
Legal Intervention	2%
Accidents	1%
Undetermined	1%

Note: with the inclusion of recently released CDC 2013 data, the suicide rate goes to 83%, and homicide to 13%.

Why is it that gun-control groups continue to push crime as the primary motive for new gun-control laws when suicide (mental health) is clearly the largest segment that needs to be addressed?

Suicide. The number one killer when a person makes the choice to use a gun in Oregon. What's happening? This graph starts in 1996 when suicide in the state started to change. Before that (see previous graph for 1981-2013) it was fairly steady. Now? It is increasing, but suicides with a firearm is also decreasing over the same time period, as illustrated by the “% suicide by firearm” trend line below.



As can be seen from the graphs, this is not a new trend. While homicides have decreased greatly, suicides have been increasing since around 2000. 13 years of data is more than enough to establish a trend. As discussed above, Oregon does not rank well with other states when it comes to mental health services. There are different theories as to why there is an increase; from the baby boomer generation aging, poor economy, to even geographic altitude as a contributing factor^{xlvii}.

There are even theories that Oregon “death with dignity” act has helped to make suicide a more socially acceptable path than in the past^{xlviii}. Or an increase in suicide as more psychiatric medications are prescribe to patients (see aging baby-boomer population above)^{xlix}.

Who is most at risk? In 2013 the CDC identified Oregon as having a “49% increase in suicide among men and women aged 35-64, from 1999-2010, compared to 28% nationally”^l. As this seems to be within the baby-boomer generation, I would expect the trend to continue naturally for the next few years.

Is there a lot we can do when it comes to firearms (including background checks)? Yes and no. Expanding the background check list (NICS) to include those with mental conditions that would make them unsuitable for the responsibility of firearm ownership may help. However, as demonstrated in 2013 when a woman who attempted to buy a firearm but was denied by the store owner, it will never be enough. She was still able to purchase a firearm after completing a background check weeks later and was ultimately able to fulfill her original intent using the method she chose^{li}.

In short, while the crime wave our country experience back in the 80’s and 90’s is over, it has been replaced with a suicide epidemic (mental health) that should be address^{lii}.

Homicide: Not As Bad As The Public Has Been Lead to Believe (and what about that 2000 ‘gun show loophole’?)

In 1998, about 6 years after violent crime began to descend rapidly in Oregon, Senator Gina Burdick attempted to pass a bill to ensure that all private sales at gun-shows also went thru the same background checks that commercial dealers performed. It did not pass, but she was successful in convincing the public to pass and implement the 2000 ballot measure 5 initiative the following year. As a result, since January 1st 2001 all firearm sales both commercial and private at gun-shows were required to go thru the OSP background check system. It seems that people were convinced that the primary source of firearms for criminals were gun-shows, and that we would all be safer if this loophole was closed.

- What were the claims as to why was the law needed?
- What was the effect of closing this loop-hole?
- Did it live up to its promises?

Are these not questions that deserve an answer before we expand the law? Here is the arguments voters were being told in Senator Burdick’s own words on the Measure 5 “Argument in Favor”ⁱⁱⁱ

YES on Measure 5.

Measure 5 has one purpose: to require criminal background checks at gun shows.

- **Measure 5 restores fairness.**

Licensed dealers already are required to do criminal background checks before selling a firearm. Measure 5 extends that requirement to private sellers at gun shows. That's not only fair, it's common sense.

Why have background checks for some sales and not others at gun shows? It's a dangerous loophole that needs to be closed. Measure 5 closes it.

- **Measure 5 helps law enforcement.**

As it is now, criminals can buy guns at gun shows in Oregon with no background checks. There are approximately 160 gun shows a year in Oregon, giving criminals lots of opportunities to get their hands on firearms, no questions asked. When these guns are used in crimes, law enforcement can't trace them. Measure 5 will help law enforcement trace guns used in crime.

- **Measure 5 background checks are immediate.**

Measure 5 does not create a waiting period. Background checks on gun show sales will be done instantly -- just as they are on gun store sales.

- **Measure 5 makes no change in existing recordkeeping requirements.**

Records on gun sales are kept for this reason: to help law enforcement officials trace guns used in crime. Measure 5 simply extends existing recordkeeping requirements to more gun sales. The requirements themselves do not change.

- **Measure 5 protects Oregon gun owners.**

Measure 5 provides civil immunity from lawsuits for gun owners who sell guns at gun shows and do background checks. Another protection for gun owners: Measure 5 will help trace stolen guns.

- **Measure 5 is not a Constitutional amendment.**

Measure 5 is a simple, common sense law that will help reduce gun violence in our state. It is no threat to the rights of law-abiding Oregonians.

Vote YES on Measure 5.

State Senator Ginny Burdick

Sheriff Robert O. Kennedy

Sheriff Dan Noelle

(This information furnished by State Senator Ginny Burdick, Sheriff Robert O. Kennedy, Sheriff Dan Noelle.)

There is also this from her website under accomplishments^{liv}:

Measure 5 was passed by Oregon voters in November 2000 with 62 percent of the vote statewide and has cut down on the flow of illegal guns from gun shows.

Some key points in regards to the above summary:

- We don't hold private one-off sales of other items to the same standards as commercial enterprises. Otherwise people would have to get a business license to have a garage sale. Pawn stores would be one example.
- There were approximately 160 gun shows in 2000. Today there are about 39 shows scheduled in 2015 for Oregon^{iv}. So the law did have some effect on that as collectors of historic and modern firearms, and related merchandise, no longer attended
- To help law enforcement trace firearms. How often is a traced gun used to solve a crime?
- Instant background checks. Sometimes this is true. Sometimes it can literally take months.

And finally it was sold to the public as a "simple, **common-sense** law that will help reduce gun violence in our state". Does this language sound familiar? Many of the same arguments/counter-arguments made then are being made today^{vi}.

Besides sounding like today's argument for more gun-control, what is actually measurable in the above? Many of these are subjective statements without a really good way to measure success. But there are records on gun tracing from the ATF we can look at. And we should be able to measure a reduction in 'gun-violence' in Oregon.

In addition, in 2007 Senator Burdick went to Washington State to testify in favor of a similar law proposal. After describing her experience promoting gun-control in Oregon and going to the 'belly of the beast'^{vii}, a.k.a rural Oregon, (Note: audio downloaded but need site to host for reference) her office released a follow-up statement with the following^{viii}:

"However, because Washington does not have this law, there are concerns that criminals in Oregon may be traveling to Washington to purchase weapons; some just across the Columbia River in Vancouver. With the passage of this bill, it would become more difficult for criminals to bring firearms into Oregon, strengthening the overall public safety of both states. "

Senator Burdick also promoted passage of the Washington law by reflecting on Oregon with statements such as:

"Gun shows were always two things: a fun thing for a family to do on a Saturday morning, and a place for criminals to get guns," said Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, who is chairwoman of Oregon's Senate Judiciary Committee. "Now it's only one of those things."

Was she insinuated gun shows exist only to supply criminals with guns? And yes, she is the same Senator Burdick who supported SB 927 in 2005 that would have outlawed semi-automatic firearms and sent people to jail if they owned one. And made statements like "registration would be my dream" after joking about gun owners shooting themselves^{ix}. It may be that she is still stuck, with other gun-control advocates, living with creating laws to try and address the violence encountered during the 80's^{ix}. With statements and track records lie that, it's no wonder gun owners don't trust her.

Opponents of the bill stated one simple objection that can also be checked^{xi}:

But opponents argue that gun show sales don't contribute to gun violence, and the proposed bill would only inconvenience law-abiding citizens who want to exercise their Second Amendment rights.

So who ended up being right? This author spent considerable time researching for specific examples and statistics on *the* effects of Ballot 5, but could not find any definitive effect. The closest comment on the effect of the ballot measure that could be found (see Seattle Pi reference above) was as follows:

In Oregon, where voters approved an initiative to close the gun show loophole in 2000, the effect of the measure is less than clear. Lawmakers who supported it say it has made a huge difference, but Portland police are unsure the city's lower crime rates mean fewer criminals are getting their hands on guns.

Before Oregon implemented its gun show loophole measure, which 62 percent of voters approved, Portland police spent three years tracing guns used in gang violence. Of those that could be traced, they found that 27 percent of them came from gun shows.

Portland police spokesman Brian Schmautz said the city has seen reduced crime since the measure passed, but its criminals don't seem to have any more difficulty getting guns than before.

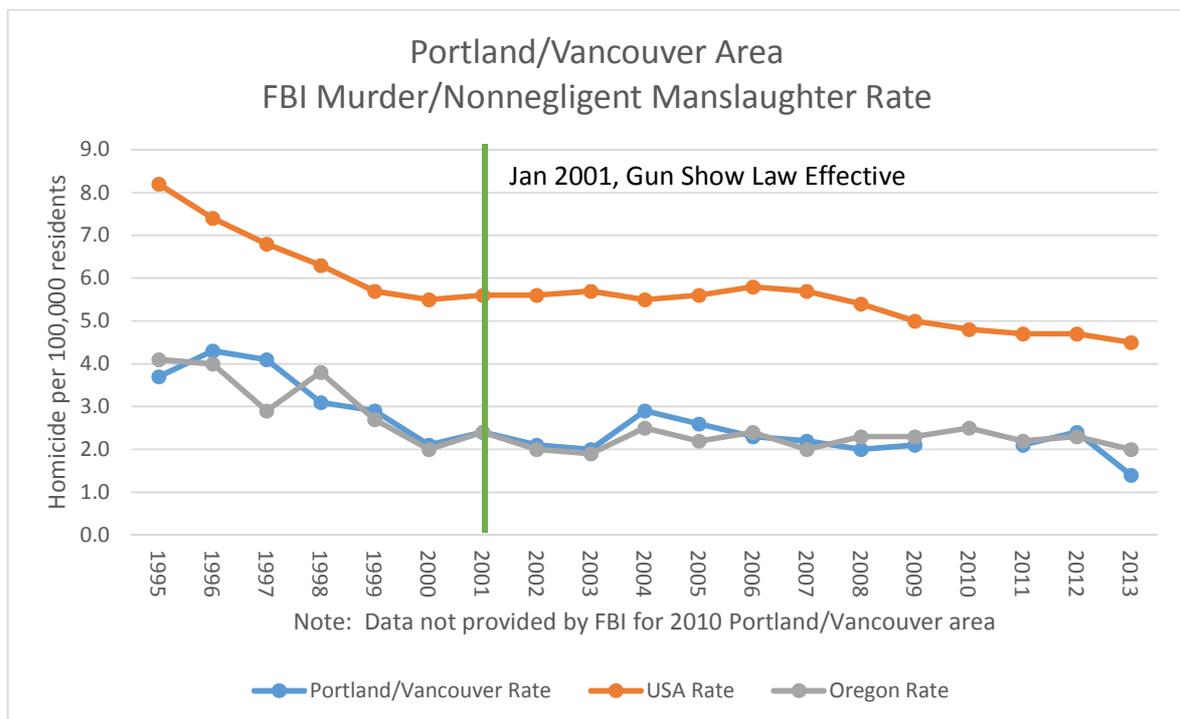
"Our crime numbers are down, but gang cops are not all of a sudden saying that there are fewer guns in the gang community," he said.

Not exactly a ringing endorsement. What it does suggest is that straw purchases are a method that criminals and gangs used to get their firearms. Gun traces can only exist if there is a record of the sale, which before the 2000 ballot 5 passage, occurred only thru commercial FFL dealers. Otherwise the Portland police would not have been able to determine their origin.

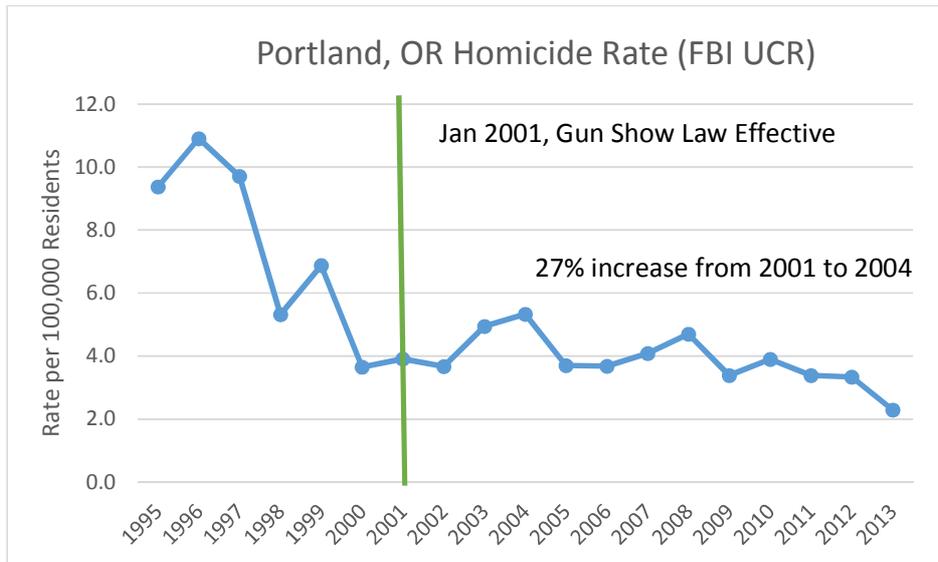
Further review of the effects of gun-show background checks in general did yield one report, *The Effect of Gun Shows on Gun-Related Deaths: Evidence from California and Texas*^{lxii}, in which the study concluded that:

We find no evidence that gun shows lead to substantial increases in either gun homicides or suicides. In addition, tighter regulation of gun shows does not appear to reduce the number of firearms-related deaths.

The study based their conclusion on the effects within a 25 mile radius of a gun show, with the theory that most attendees to gun shows would also live nearby. As Portland is home to many of the state's largest gun-shows, and falls within Senator Burdicks district, the FBI Uniform Crime Reports from 1995 to 2013 (the 2010 FBI UCR did not include Portland metro area) for the metropolitan area of Portland was reviewed for the effects of crime before and after implementation of the law.



Following is a graph of just the Portland area, which did include the individual city homicide rate for 2010.



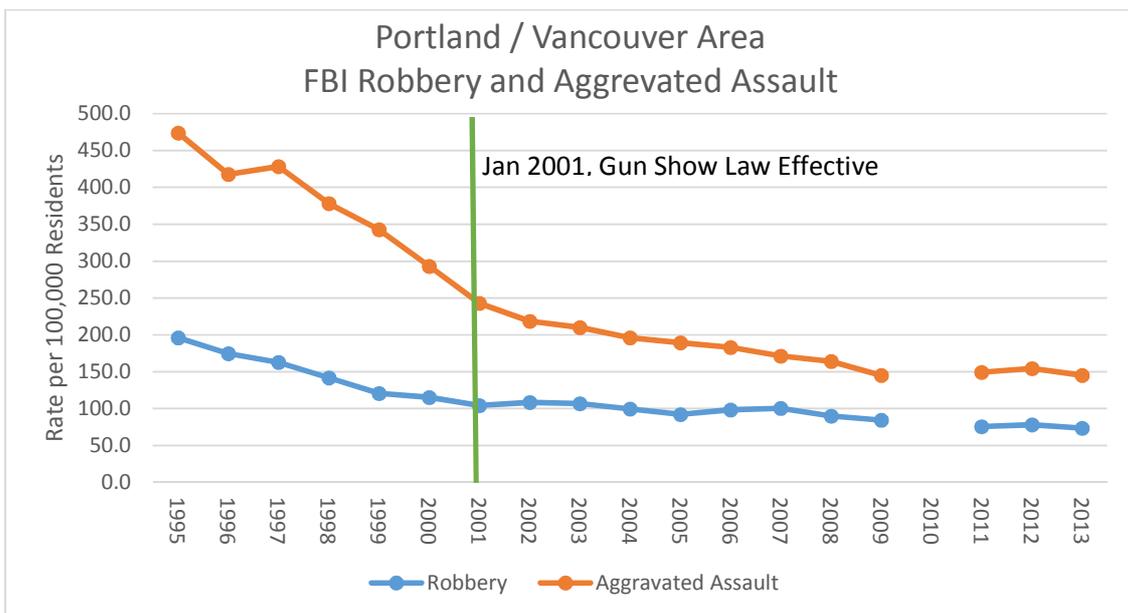
Using “gun-sense” logic as was applied to Missouri in 2007 elsewhere in this report, the murder rate went up 27% in the first three years when the gun-show background check became effective!

It would take many years later for the Portland area to see any type of the promised reduction in crime it was supposed to deliver. And even then, it is in line with the overall state and country declines with crime. The gun-show loophole could be abolished tomorrow, and it would not be noticed or missed. It’s not surprising. So how did Ballot 5 end up getting passed? Please refer to the original opening paragraphs of this report about the need for people to feel safe.

But what about illegal access to firearms since then? Surely it’s had an effect, right? In 2011, a journalist from the Willamette Week^{lxiii} confirmed that the comments of the police earlier were correct, it didn’t stop criminals as that really isn’t were they were getting their ‘crime guns’.

“Those laws [mayor Adams city ordinances] don’t keep guns out of people’s hands. They don’t stop gun sales. They don’t stop anything,” Johnson says. “There’s a disconnect between City Hall and the community.”

The FBI Aggravated Assault and Robbery look about the same. Using “gun-sense”, the gun show Ballot 5 measure actually retarded the drop in crime.



The two remaining items as to the effectiveness of the Oregon 2000 Gun-Show Ballot Measure 5 effectiveness is covered under the following two sections “Where do Criminals Get Their Guns” and “Tracing Guns From Crime Scenes”

7 WHERE DO CRIMINALS GET THEIR GUNS

In 2014, during the attempt to pass a background check bill in Oregon (SB1551), Ceasefire Oregon claimed in written testimony:

“A recent study using data from a national survey of state prison inmates found that nearly all (96.1%) offenders who were legally prohibited, acquired their gun from a supplier not required to conduct a background check. In Oregon, those suppliers are private individuals selling guns at places other than gun shows—they are not required to conduct background checks.”^{lxiv}

Wow. 96.1% And a Background Check law would stop felons from buying of selling firearms to each other, right? But is that what the study really said? The study “Legal status and source of offenders’ firearms in states with the least stringent criteria for gun ownership” was crafted by the Center for Gun Policy and Research, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.^{lxv} Here’s the goal of the study:

“The goals of the current study are to: (1) identify the proportion of state prison inmates incarcerated for gun-related offences **in states with the least strict standards for firearm purchase and possession** who would have been prohibited from possessing firearms if laws in their states had included additional exclusion criteria and (2) describe how these inmates acquired their firearms.”

This is the same institute that released the “Repeal of Missouri's Background Check Law Associated with Increase in State's Murders” report presented elsewhere where selective states and time periods were used to tell only part of a story. Why mention this? Because it is the beginning of another trend the public should be aware of. i.e. using the cover of science to push a political agenda.

The underlines are mine. In other words, let’s not talk about the states with more gun-control. In the end the study looks at only 13 specifically selected states in order to make their point. Ok, because this study is biased it unfortunately isn’t going to help us much in understanding the problem we really want to solve; reducing crime in general for all people. Not just those shot by criminals wielding firearms.

The study is useful as it does lead us to the U.S. Department of Justice surveys of prison inmates across the country in 2004^{lxvi}. And it helps fill in a question for the “Oregon Gun Show Ballot 5” question mentioned earlier in the report. Mainly, were do criminals get their guns from?

Firearm Sources	2004	Oregon Current Background Checks	Oregon SB941 Expanded Background Checks?	Note:
Purchased or Traded Retail	11.30%			
Retail Store	7.30%	Covered	Covered	Criminals get guns from retail due to gaps in NICS system, criminal FLL's, stolen identity, or offenders with no record. What gun-show loophole?
Pawn Shop	2.60%	Covered	Covered	
Flea Market	0.60%	Covered	Covered	
Gun Show	0.80%			
Family Or Friends	37.40%			Family Exempt
Purchased or Traded	12.20%	Maybe	Maybe	Friends? If they are already law abiding. Dealer or fellow criminal 'friends' loaning firearms or as part of doing business. Gangs or felons "lending" firearms? No Straw Purchases? No
Rented or Borrowed	14.10%	Maybe	Maybe	
Other	11.10%	Maybe	Maybe	
Street/Illegal Sources	40.00%			No Effect
Theft	7.50%	No	No	
Drug Dealer/street	25.20%	No	No	
Fence/Black Market	7.40%	No	No	
Other	11.20%	No	No	Survey Response Choices: Refuse/Don't know/Specify. Likely category for “private sales” between strangers.

Now someone with “gun-sense” might focus on the retail/commercial market while ignoring the rest. “It’s working” might be the response. Not so fast. Per the U.S. Department of Justice’s report “Firearm Violence, 1993-2011”^{lxvii} found that “From 1993 to 2010, the rate of homicides for persons ages 18 to 24 declined 51%”. In addition the “Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Corrections Facilities, Firearm Use by Offenders, Nov, 2001”^{lxviii} found that:

- “Recidivists (repeat offenders) were less likely than those who were first time offenders to have purchased their gun from a retail store, pawnshop, flea market, or gun show”.

In other words, fewer young criminals are buying their first firearms from retail. And (aging) repeat offenders are going to other sources. i.e. shifting to getting family/friends to conduct a straw purchase or ‘borrow’ a firearm. Now does that say that the Brady background check act (effective in 1994) didn’t cause some of the shift? It probably did cause some. It also shows that the current NCIS background check system is not effective as incomplete records allow criminals to pass background checks. Something the National Sport Shooting Foundation (NSSF) supports fixing in order to ensure states are providing the proper records to the background check system^{lxviii}.

In addition, remember the earlier comments about gun-shows being a major source of crime guns? 0.8% of crime guns were acquired from gun-shows in 2004. In an earlier survey before 2000 (1997^{lxix}) the percentage was virtually unchanged at 0.6%. What about private sales between individuals/strangers? It seems that in the survey, ‘private sales’ didn’t even get its own sub-category. And why should it? Criminals are interested in self-preservation. Performing a transaction with a stranger, who is probably more likely to cooperate with police if questions are asked or the seller becomes suspicious, is dangerous and risky. And unnecessary if they have many other ‘friends’, gang-members, and straw-purchasers willing to help out.

All this does is further demonstrate why “background checks” fail to reduce crime in any measurable way, especially beyond commercial sales. These types of laws target the law-abiding portion of the population, a segment that already tries to comply with the law. The background check system merely lays out another additional bureaucratic hurdle that must be crossed in order for the law abiding to prove they are extra law abiding.

Meanwhile, criminals will continue to acquire firearms thru means that remain untouched by background check systems. Indeed, in August 2011, Willamette week Journalist James Pitkin was able to purchase a firearm ‘off the street’ in Portland in about 3 hours^{lxx}. I would like to hear from the gun-control advocates how background checks will cover that “96.1%” of firearm transactions that criminals get their firearms from when it does nothing to address those areas of criminal culture.

Here’s a novel idea: target those areas where criminals acquire their firearms thru stiffer laws (straw purchasing^{lxxi}, penalties for having a firearm during a crime, etc) and targeted police tactics.

For example, the ATF conducted a sting operation in Portland in ~2011 looking for people willing to illegally deal in drugs and firearms by setting up a fake store^{lxxii}. And while the tactics of the ATF left much to be desired, the overall strategy of targeting the people actually willing to commit actual crimes that knowingly leads to hurting others is far better than just assuming all Oregon gun owners are potential criminals.

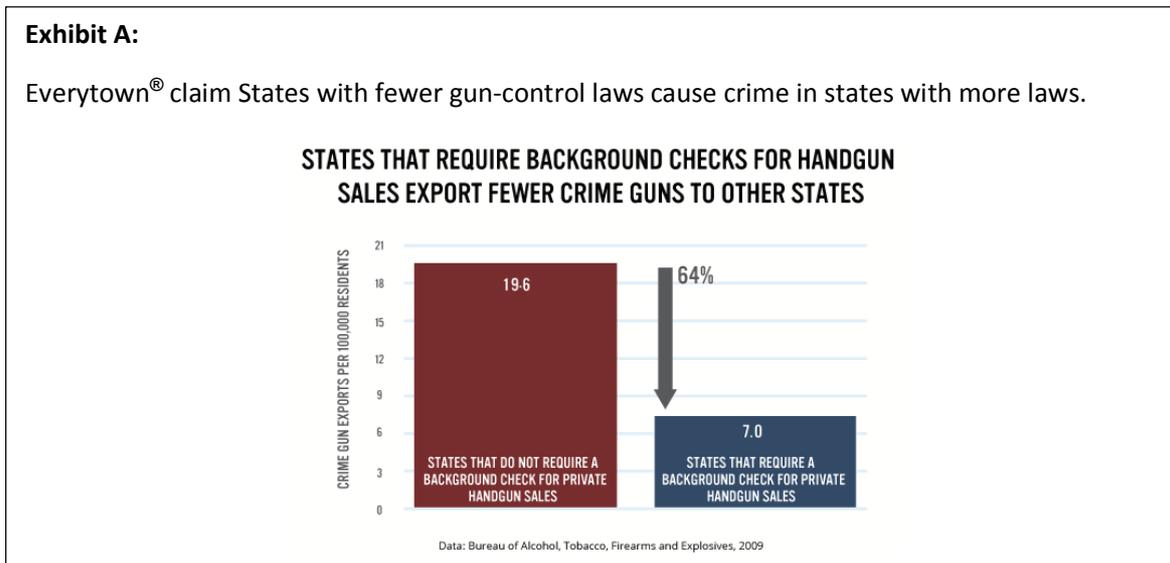
8 TRAFFICKING BETWEEN OREGON AND OTHER STATES

One of the other claims raised during the 2007 is that if Washington did not close their “gun-show loophole” that criminals from Oregon would be flooding Washington for their guns. Strangely, that argument was never made about California. Was it true? There is limited public statistical information from the ATF on their website, but there is enough to understand some of what is going on.

First a definition. What does it mean when the ATF traces a firearm for police? And what does it mean when it comes from another state? A firearm traced by the ATF simply traces a firearm, by its serial number, back to the location of its first commercial sale. i.e. when it was sold new from the manufacturer. A trace can be, but not always, performed after a firearm is found at the scene of a crime. It may not have actually been used in a crime, or even carried by any violators.

So what does it mean when Everytown® says “guns traced or trafficked”? The implication is that criminals are going to states with comparatively lax gun laws, buying guns, and then returning to states with strict gun laws and selling them at a profit i.e. gun-running in old rust pickups. The truth, once again, is something completely different. Let’s say Bob lives in Montana and legally buys a gun from a gun dealer after passing a background check. A few years later he gets a job and moves to California. A few more years go by, and Bob no longer wishes to keep his gun. So he sells it to a gun dealer and never thinks of it again. 5 or 6 years later the firearm shows up at a crime scene and gets traced back to the gun-store in Montana. Per Everytowns® insinuation, Bob is a ‘trafficker’ as he ‘moved’ the firearm from Montana. Yes, there are some traffickers who do make a living as illegal firearms sellers to people who should not have these firearms, and they should be sought after by law enforcement and prosecuted. But most of the firearms traced are from the natural movement of legal citizens moving around the country due to jobs, family or other personal unrelated matters.

But wait, there’s more! The other implication by Everytown® when they publish graphs like the one below is that these state with so-called lax gun laws are just flooding the poor gun-control states.



Once again, not really true (At some point I’ll get tired of typing that). For example, the closest “A-“ graded “Brady Campaign” state to Oregon is California, home to some of the most restrictive gun-control laws in the country. In 2013 (last year ATF data is available. And in an easy to download excel spreadsheet), 89% of the guns found in crime sense in California came from.... California. What about the rest of the country? States with background checks for all handgun sales at the beginning of 2013 are highlighted in yellow.

In addition, Everytown made one additional fundamental error in the above chart: by basing their rates off of state population, it is making an assumption that the entire state population is involve in gun trafficking. That’s not nice! Especially when many of these states have such varying degrees of gun ownership and crime rates and centers to begin with.

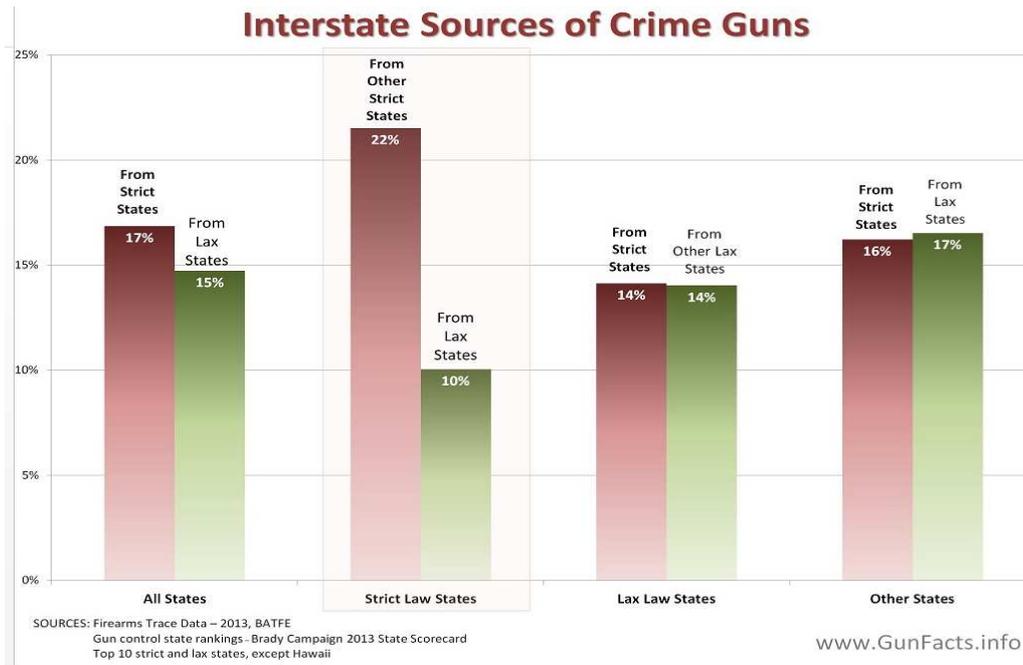
State	% Recovered firearms from within own state	State	% Recovered firearms from within own state
CALIFORNIA	89.0%	INDIANA	65.7%
MARYLAND	83.5%	COLORADO	65.1%
ILLINOIS	81.2%	ARKANSAS	64.3%
LOUISIANA	80.0%	MASSACHUSETTS	63.9%
NEBRASKA	78.9%	HAWAII	63.4%
MICHIGAN	78.6%	DELAWARE	62.7%
MINNESOTA	78.5%	VIRGINIA	61.8%
OHIO	78.2%	DC	61.5%
FLORIDA	77.7%	NEW MEXICO	60.5%
TEXAS	76.8%	NEVADA	59.6%
WISCONSIN	76.0%	IOWA	59.0%
NORTH CAROLINA	74.4%	UTAH	58.7%
NEW YORK	73.1%	SOUTH CAROLINA	56.6%
TENNESSEE	72.2%	CONNECTICUT	53.1%
MISSOURI	71.9%	MAINE	50.8%
PENNSYLVANIA	71.2%	KENTUCKY	50.8%
KANSAS	69.6%	OKLAHOMA	49.7%
OREGON	68.8%	MONTANA	47.3%
RHODE ISLAND	68.3%	VERMONT	46.7%
WASHINGTON	67.9%	NORTH DAKOTA	46.4%
GEORGIA	67.6%	IDAHO	46.2%
ARIZONA	67.2%	MISSISSIPPI	42.5%
NEW JERSEY	66.8%	SOUTH DAKOTA	38.3%
ALASKA	66.6%	WEST VIRGINIA	30.0%
ALABAMA	66.2%	WYOMING	24.1%

So in a way, the Eveytown meme is correct, States with expanded background checks export fewer firearms... because the criminals are keeping and using them to commit crimes in those same states! One interesting independent study took it much further and used the 2013 ATF gun trace data to see just where most of these crime guns really were originating^{xxiii}. The conclusion?

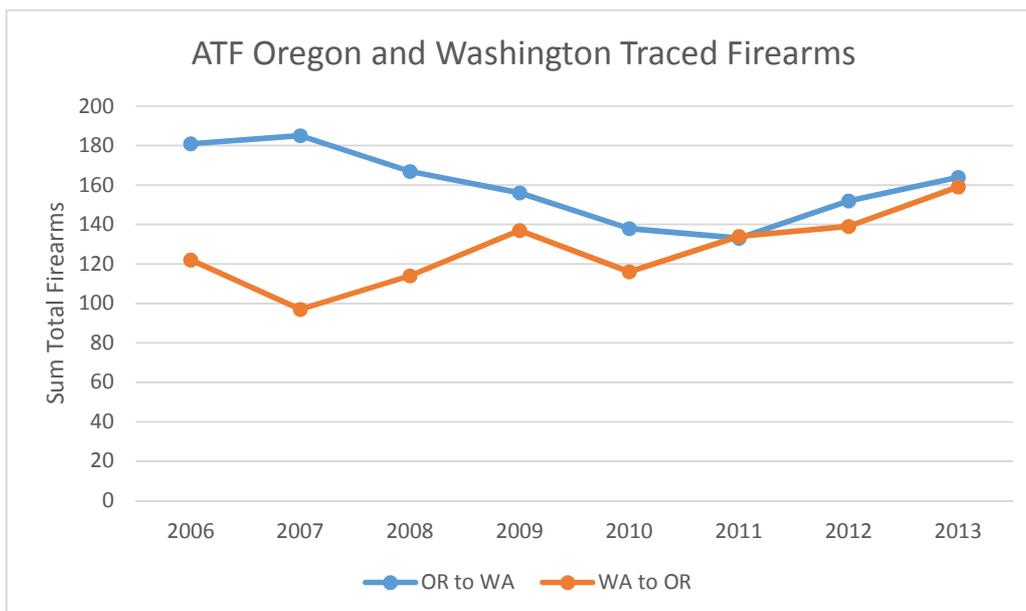
Most crime guns come from the state where the crime was committed. For states with strict gun control laws, most come from other "strict law" states.

Remember also from earlier in the report; most of these "gun-control state" already have low incidents of gun-ownership compared to the rest of the country. As well as higher overall levels of violence than Oregon. And most crime guns originate within the state the crime was committed in. This brings to mind an old meme:

When government outlaw guns, only outlaws will have guns.



This does leave one additional open question regarding Oregon: When Washington did not close their so-called “gun-show loophole”, was there a flood of guns into Oregon?

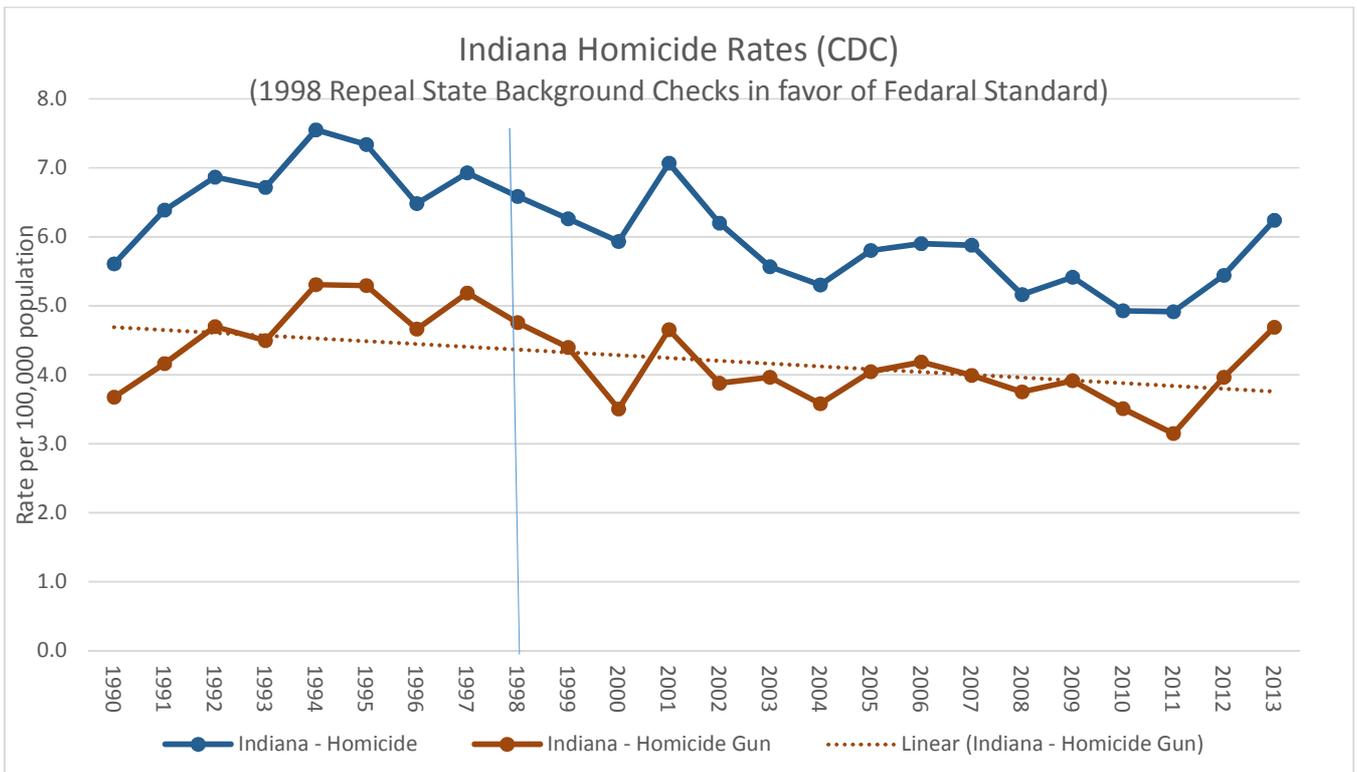
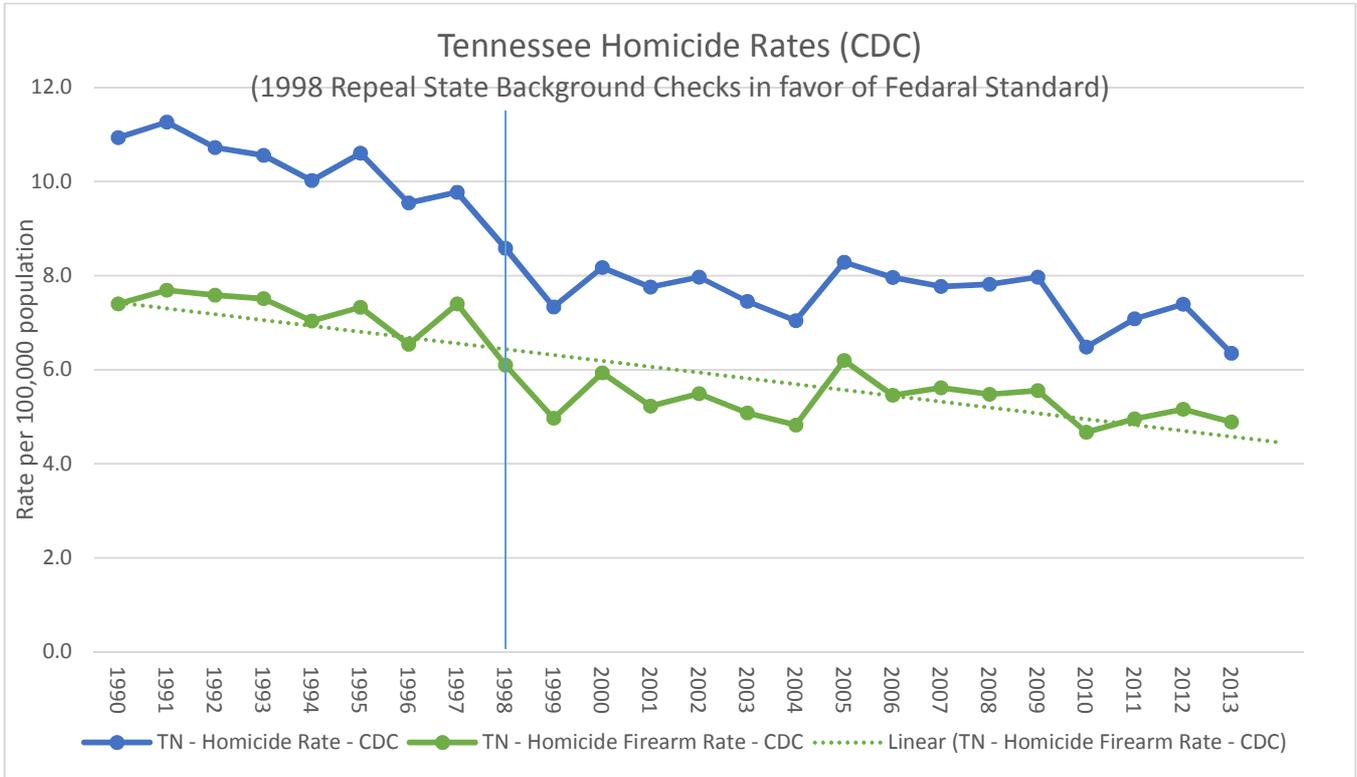


Yes, there have been a net flow of firearms traced from Oregon (with stricter gun-control laws) into Washington state. It’s almost as if criminals don’t care what the law is? The only real disappointment in the data is that the ATF doesn’t provide data back to (or before) 2000 when Oregon passed the gun-show background check law.

Further Note: this trend is not that startling. Per the original example, a firearm can be traced to another state simply because of a person moving from job to job. Washington State has a population almost twice that of Oregon’s. The chance that a person is moving from Oregon to Washington is much greater than someone moving from Washington to Oregon. Also a reality check must be made with the actual numbers: In recent years especially, the flow of firearms between the two states is about equal. And easily within the realm of legal citizens moving across state lines.

9 OTHER STATES THAT HAVE REPEALED BACKGROUND CHECKS

I bet your first thought was Missouri, right? You may have seen the scary report by the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health that after Missouri repealed its background checks system for handguns that crime suddenly skyrocketed 25%^{xxiv} for no other reason than the lack of gun-control. Not so fast. There are two other states that have also repealed their background check laws that for some reason the media and institutes like John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, do not care to report on; Indiana and Tennessee.

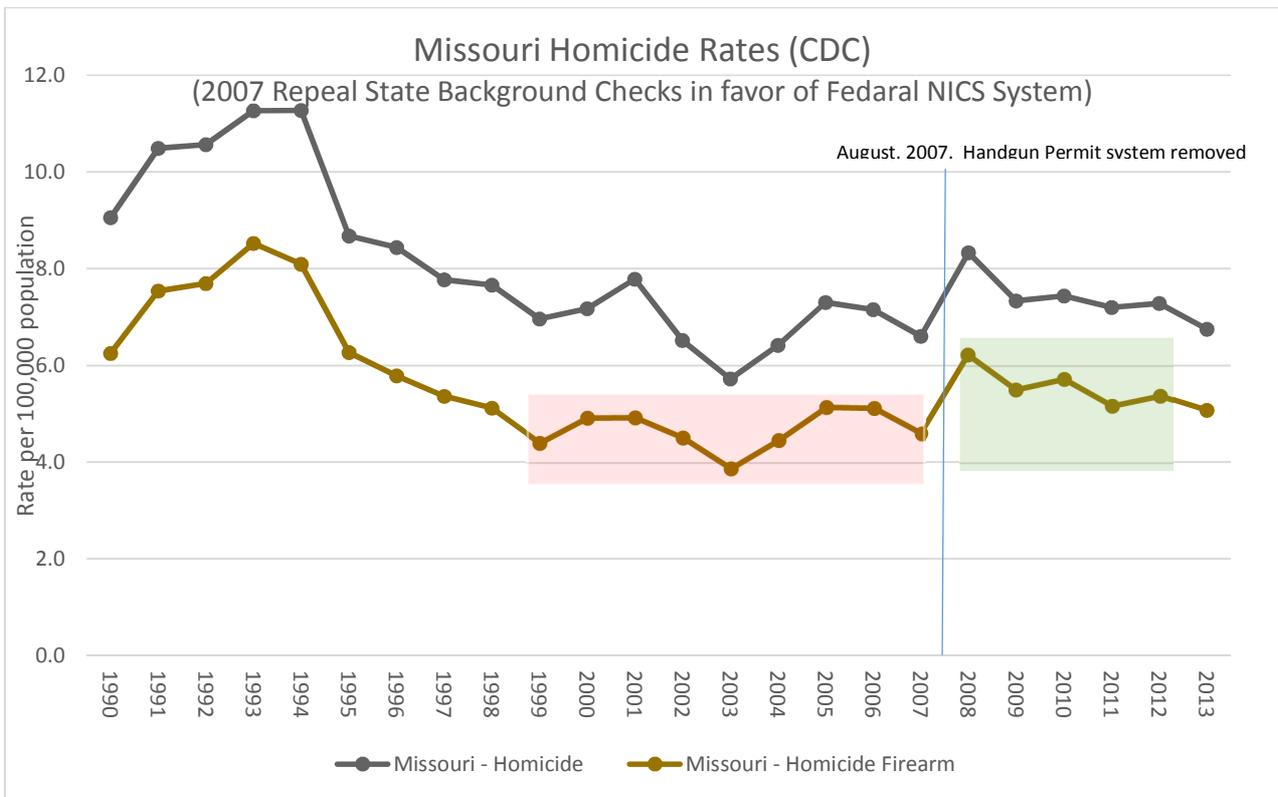


That is correct, both states repealed their state background check laws, and not only did those states not see a resulting spike in crime in the following decade, but homicides (including when a criminal uses a gun) also continued to trend down.

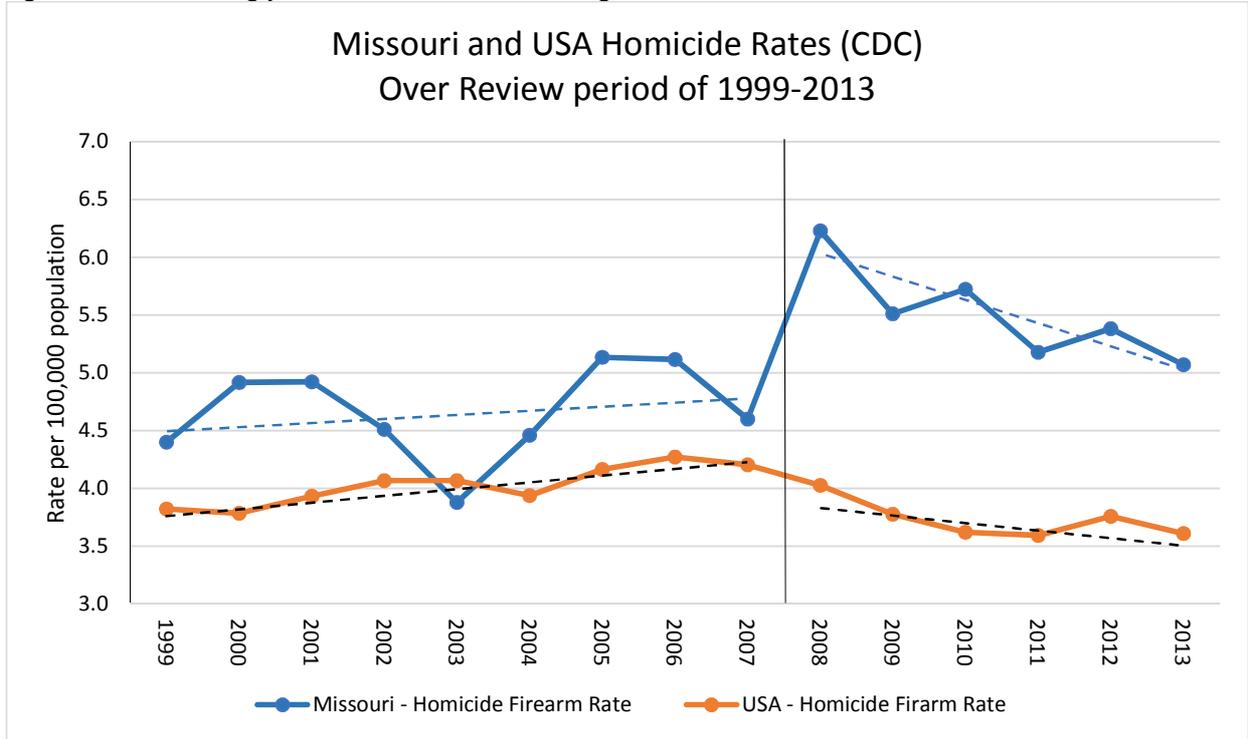
Note on Tennessee: For more observant viewers, they may have noticed the high homicide rates. Tennessee does have an overall problem with crime, but it is making progress towards reducing that number^{lxv}. Surely their numbers could be lower, if only they had more gun-control, right? Take a look back at the crime index table a few pages back and check out which states its keeping company with. Hint: Close cousins with states with background checks for all handgun purchases include Illinois, Michigan and Maryland. North Carolina isn't too far away either.

“But what about Missouri” gun-sense readers might be piping up and saying by now. Let’s take a look at the graph below. In 2007 the Missouri legislature voted to repeal the Universal Background Check requirement. The law went into effect in August of 2007^{lxvi}, 2/3’s of the way thru 2007. The requirement did not remove all background checks (Federal rules still apply) but it did rescind the requirement to get a permit to purchase a handgun from the local sheriff’s office. The John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health report covered the period from 1999 to 2012.

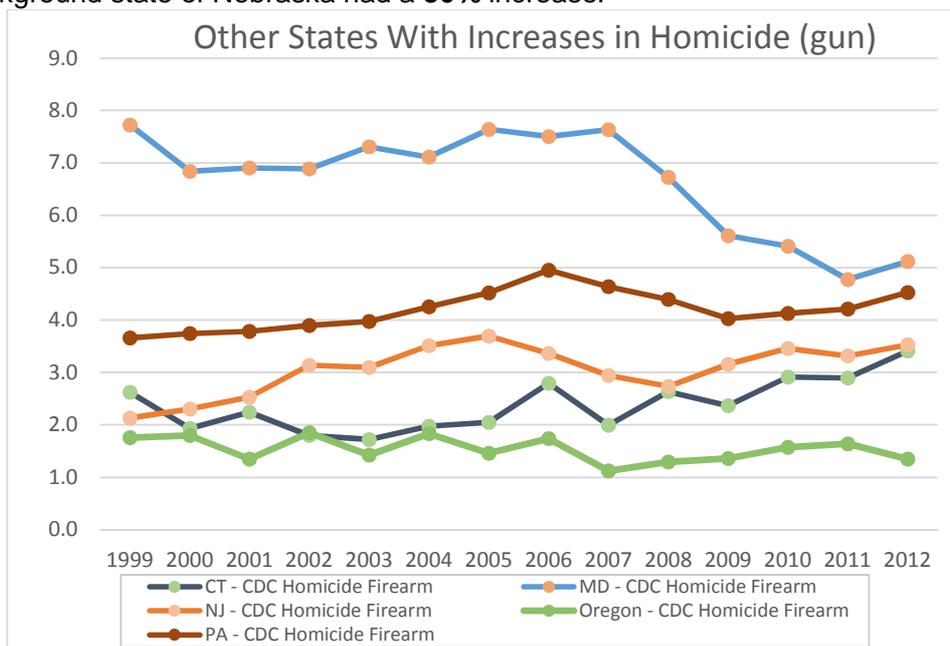
If you look at the following graph you will notice something funny happening in 2003: the crime rate began to rise while background checks were still in effect! How could this be? The researchers said it increased 25% after the repeal. Maybe that’s why the researcher used data for the prior 9 years, dating back to 2007. They had to get enough of the lower trend average data to make the recent uptick spike look worse. The shaded red area is the time period that the author of the study used to create his base line. The shaded blue area is the post-law study time-line. How nice of the researcher to not include any of the higher homicide rates farther back than 1999. Would the researchers apply the same standards, and release a similar report for Tennessee and Indiana?



Here's an interesting set of trend lines (1999-2007 and 2008-2012) to further illustrate what happened in Missouri's situation that gun-sense doesn't want you to understand. If you look close you will see that the trend before 2007/2008 the Homicide Firearm rate was slowly increasing. 2008 after the crime spike? Trending lower, and falling just a little faster than the general USA Homicide Firearm Rate.



OK, stay with me on the next one as it gets a little messy. Along with the increase in crime in Missouri the following gun-control states also saw bumps in homicides with a firearms in the same general time period: Connecticut (CT), Maryland (MD), New Jersey (NJ) and Pennsylvania (PA). Oregon is also included for comparison. There are others, but to include them would make the graph confusing to review. Also notice the bump in homicide with a firearm for the US in the previous graph. What does it say? That Missouri wasn't alone (Oregon being an exception) in having a spike in homicides between 2003 and 2008. Some states were not affected at all, some like Missouri quite a bit. In fact if you read the original Hopkins report (table 1) the "background checks for all handgun purchases" you will find this little data gem: While Missouri had a 25% increase, the background state of Nebraska had a **30%** increase!^{lxvii}



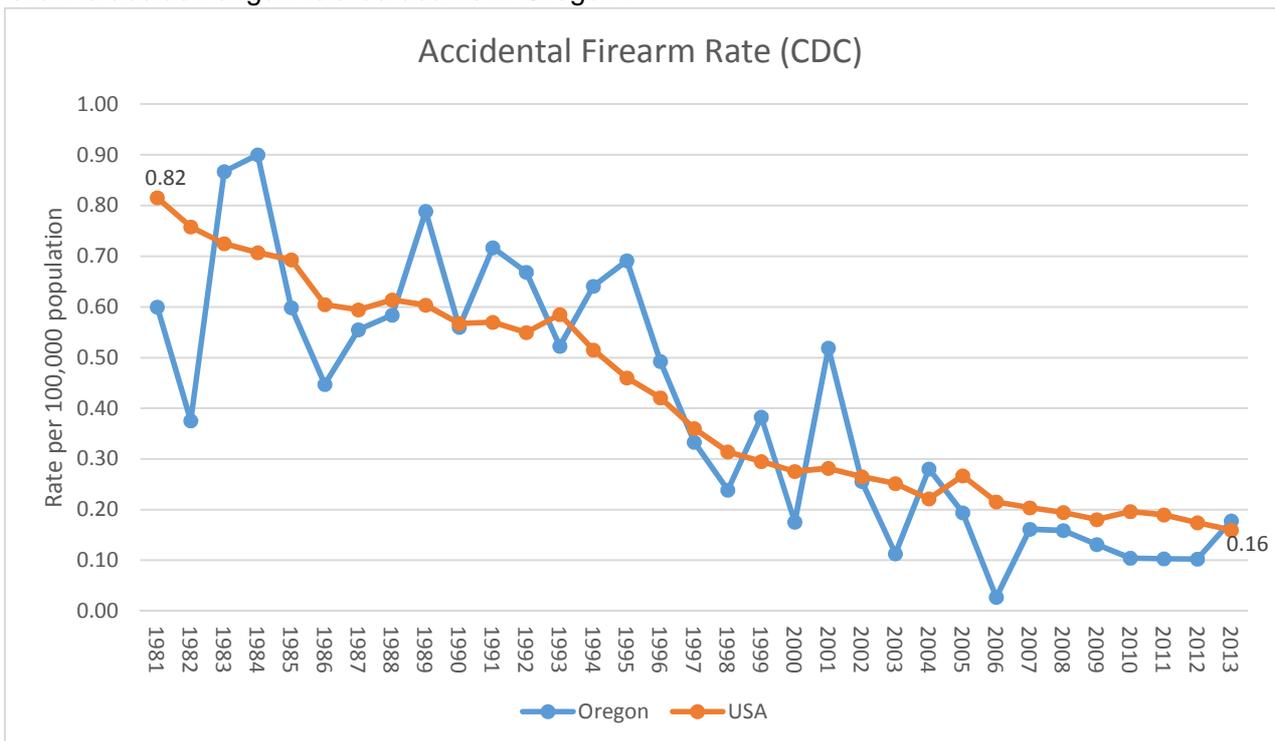
We could spend more time on these states, but I believe I've (continued) to make the point that not only are background checks not really having the effect people think they should, but some supporters of gun-control are willing to cherry-pick data and present it under an official banner that, while technically true (when viewed from the right angle) doesn't tell the whole story to advance a particular agenda.

We could go on about other aspects of the Hopkins study, or crime rates in other states. We could start the discussion on correlation and causality^{lxviii} (or lack of), but this is about Oregon. So enough on this subject, let's move forward.

10 OREGON ACCIDENTS

Accidental death, via a firearm. This can be anything from a hunting accident, to a curious child finding a loaded but unintended firearm.

What are the accidental gun related deaths in Oregon?



This represents, nationally, a ~80% decrease in firearm related accidents since 1981!

Note: This is actually a rather hard subject to approach as neither the CDC or Oregon Health authority information do not line up. It wouldn't matter if the numbers were much larger, but when dealing with such small numbers it should be stated that even just one incident can affect the overall trend. Luckily the graph below shows that the rates are fairly close together to show trends over the last 19 years (OHA did not have public information past 1995 on the OHA website).

Neither the CDC nor Oregon Health Authority seem to keep track of the situations leading to the accidents (hunting accident, loaded firearm where a child found it, etc). In addition, for deaths with total counts below 20 the CDC states a warning that the data may be unreliable, and that results with 10 or less events will not be reported in order to avoid inadvertent disclosure of decedent's identity^{lxxix}. As the CDC has more historical data, as well as other state data to compare against, the CDC data will be used to compare Oregon's accident rates with other states.

Why discuss accidents at all? Because there will be 'safe storage' laws proposed soon. And it is important to know how this applies to Oregon, and if they have even successful in other states in order to understand if "just one more law" would make a difference.

In general, the answer is no.

Oregon Accidental Deaths with a Firearm							
	CDC Data	Oregon Health Authority					
Year	All	All	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	18-19
1995	22	14	4			3	2
1996	16	14	2			2	2
1997	11	10	1			0	2
1998	8	5	2			1	0
1999	13	8	1	0	2	0	1
2000	6	4	0	0	1	0	0
2001	18	11	0	0	0	0	1
2002	9	9	0	0	0	1	0
2003	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
2004	10	7	0	0	0	0	2
2005	7	3	0	0	1	0	1
2006	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
2007	6	8	0	0	0	1	0
2008	6	3	0	0	0	0	1
2009	5	5	0	0	1	0	0
2010	4	4	0	1	0	0	0
2011	4	8	0	0	0	0	0
2012	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
2013	7	8	1	0	0	1	1
Total	161	131	2	10	5	9	13

Unless we want to authorize the state or the police to make unannounced visits to homes for inspection, there really is no way to enforce safe storage laws, until after the law has been broken^{lxxx}. States that have passed safe-storage laws rarely prosecute to the full extent of the law^{lxxxii}. In cases where it has been used, it is usually in association with the commission of another crime. Prosecutors are human, and are usually reluctant to fully charge individuals who would otherwise not be felons when the punishment of the adults negligence has cost them the life of their child. Is there really a greater punishment?

In addition there are already laws in Oregon that deal with child endangerment such as Oregon statutes § 163.545 or 163.547^{lxxxiii}. So why the desire to add “just one more law” if it is unlikely to have the intended effect? Is it another answer in order to feel that ‘we did something’, or coffee conversation at the counter where ‘there should be a law against that’? What happened to public education? Accidental gun deaths continue to trend down, why not continue to reduce them the same way we do in schools teaching children about disease, safely crossing a street, or wearing a bike helmet when riding a bike?

There are programs available to support child safety when in the presence of a firearm. Programs such as the Eddie Eagle GunSafe program^{lxxxiii} (STOP! Don’t Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult.); A program geared towards smaller children and has reached over 26 million children in all 50 states since its debut in 1988. Or the Project Child Safe^{lxxxiv}, a program partnering with law enforcement, local communities and leading sporting goods stores that have handed out over 70,000,000 safety locks^{lxxxv} over the last few decades^{lxxxvi}. As well as STAR (Straight Talk About Risks).

Additional information about the Eddie Eagle and Project Safe child can be found below:

<http://eddieeagle.nra.org/program-features.aspx>

<http://www.projectchildsafes.org/supporter-orgs>

Unfortunately there are groups that would prefer to attack and diminish these safety programs and attempt to mislead legislatures and the public about their effectiveness. Or claim that the programs actually glorify guns instead of promote safety, or are not 100% effective. Why? Because of the NRA's training divisions association with the NRA's NRA-ILA organization, which is the lobby arm of the NRA membership (different organizations under the same overall corporate umbrella).

“Eddie Eagle is often referred to as Joe Camel dressed up in feathers. The Eddie Eagle program tends to glamorize guns by making them seem like something you can only do when you're an adult — just like drinking and smoking. You know what happens when you tell a child something like that. They want to do it more than ever,” said Nancy Hwa, a spokesperson for the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.

In January of 2014, the ABC news show 20/20 presented a special called “Young Guns”, with a segment on teaching children about gun safety. One segment performed an experiment with young children; some of whom received a brief Eddie Eagle gun safety presentation the day before the experiment (The NRA has material to cover from 1 to 5 days in order to reinforce the message). The experiment places the children in a classroom with unloaded guns in a candy bowl and backpack. After the teacher leaves the room hidden cameras capture the children's discovery of the guns. The special spends a great deal of time dealing with the shock of parents whose children do pick up the unloaded firearms they find in a candy bowl. But the show only touched briefly on the fact that “18 of 30 boys touched the guns (60%)” vs (9 of 24 boys touched the gun who received the Eddie Eagle training (38%)”^{lxxxvii}. That's telling me it's getting thru to some of the kids! Now with people who have raised kids, they know that once is often not enough to reinforce things like “don't eat food off the floor” or “look both ways before crossing the street”. Hence, the Eddie Eagle program 1-5 day curriculums.

Here's some examples of the original Eddie Eagle video. Take a look and judge for yourself if you think it promotes or glorifies gun ownership.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIEBrb_wRYc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxIaOr2sx5c>

The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence has their own program called STAR (Straight Talk About Risks).^{lxxxviii} Unfortunately there is not very much public information about the program online. I guess it is not a priority. Although it has had its critics as well, claiming it to be more anti-gun and teaching students to fear firearms in general.

Instead of turning it into a political debate, some districts have taken a approach of combining the various aspects of all the programs above.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=96091&page=1>

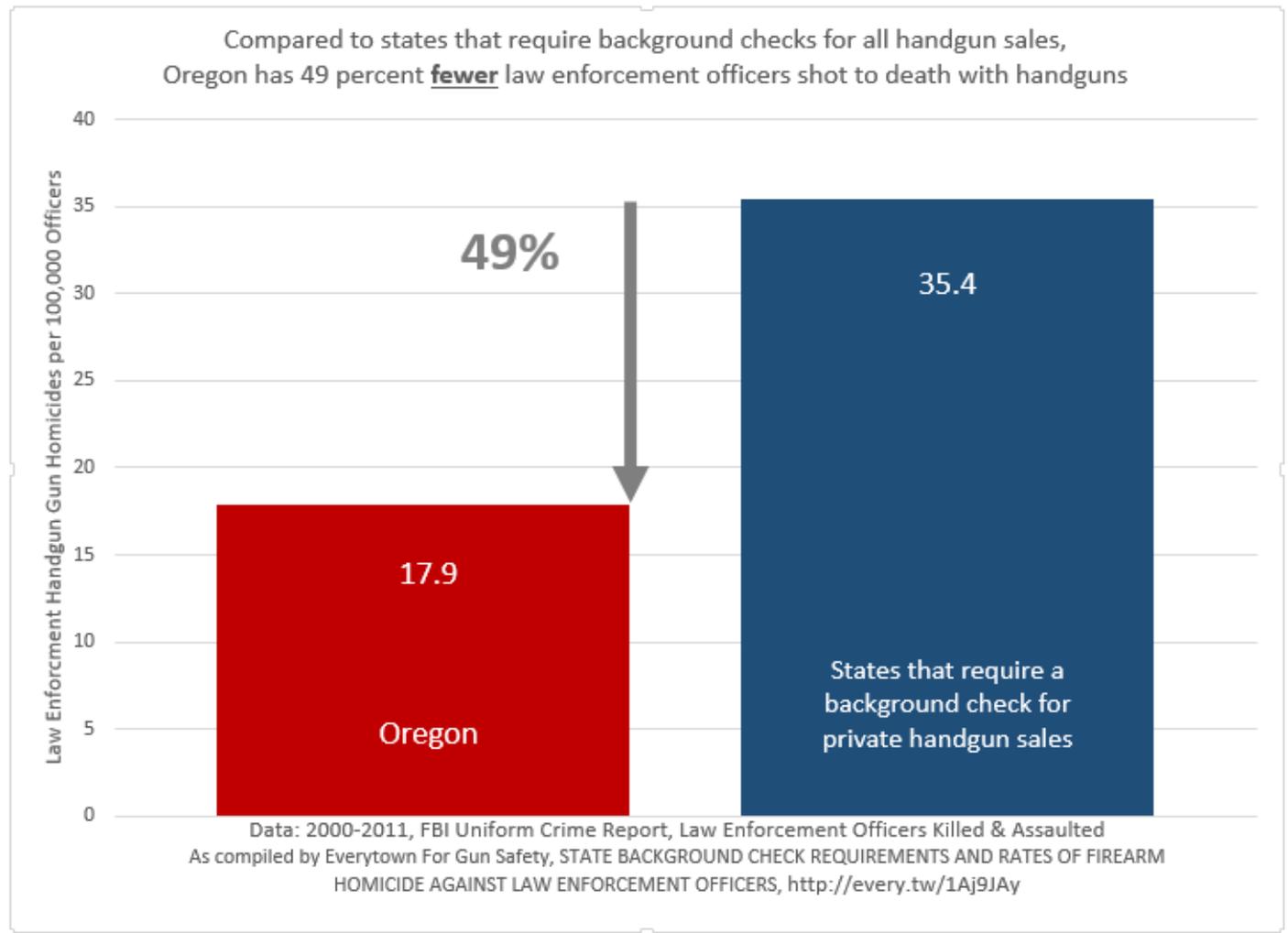
One last comment about the Eddie Eagle program (And why its worth mentioning again): Not only has it been around and developed since 1988, but they help low income schools with grants^{lxxxix}. And the National Sports Shooting Federations “Project Safe Child” works closely with local police to hand out gun safety kits to people who request them (Oregon link: <http://www.projectchildsafe.org/safety/safety-kit/Oregon>). With Oregon's history of education cuts the state should really look at leveraging these education resources to complement child safety education in this state.

I would encourage education, as we have with other aspects of teaching our children to make good decisions about safety, as a valid and worthwhile alternative to laws that will be rarely enforced, much less encountered.

11 “EXCELLENT STUDIES” ABOUT “STATES WITH BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL HAND-GUNS...”

Memes, especially those that fit into the space of a twitter character limit, or a facebook post, are very popular with gun-control groups. Here are some about Oregon (based on the style of Everytown® for Gun Safety). Note: Data was obtained from the CDC WISQARS system and the FBI UCR annual reports from 2008 to 2012. Data was analyzed using methods developed and used by Everytown® for Gun Safety.

What else does this analysis review? In the review period from 2000-2011;

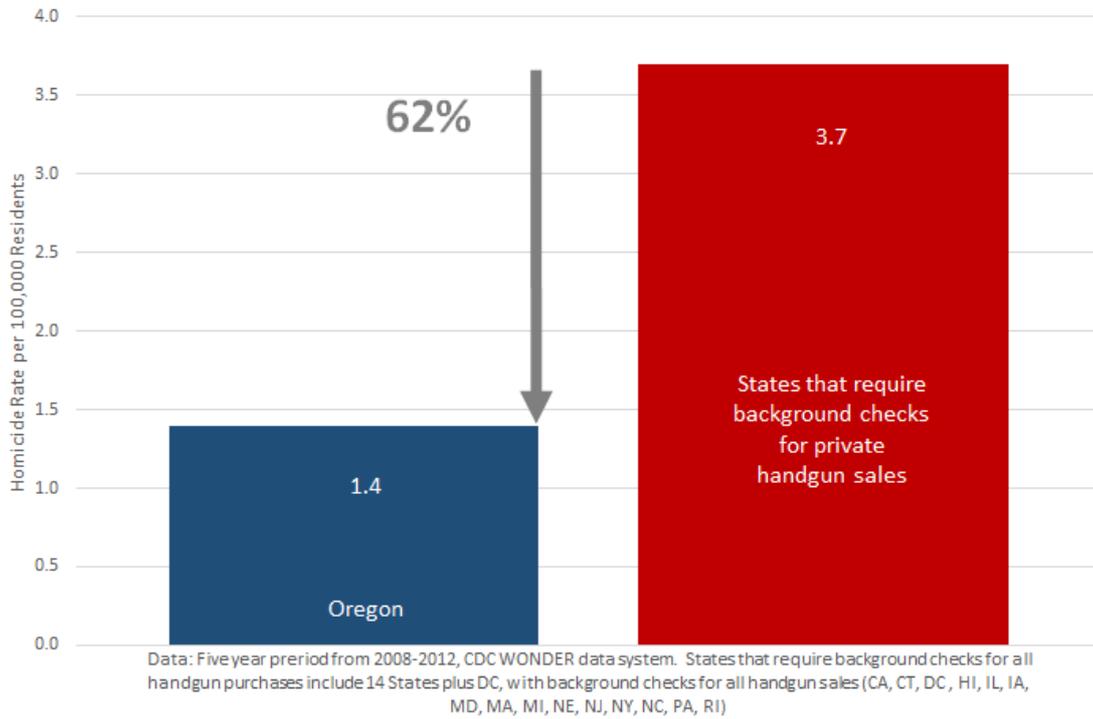


States with Background Checks also employ ~14% more police officers as well. (Based on the rate per 100,000 residents). More officers is one factor that many criminologists believe have an effect on lowering crime.

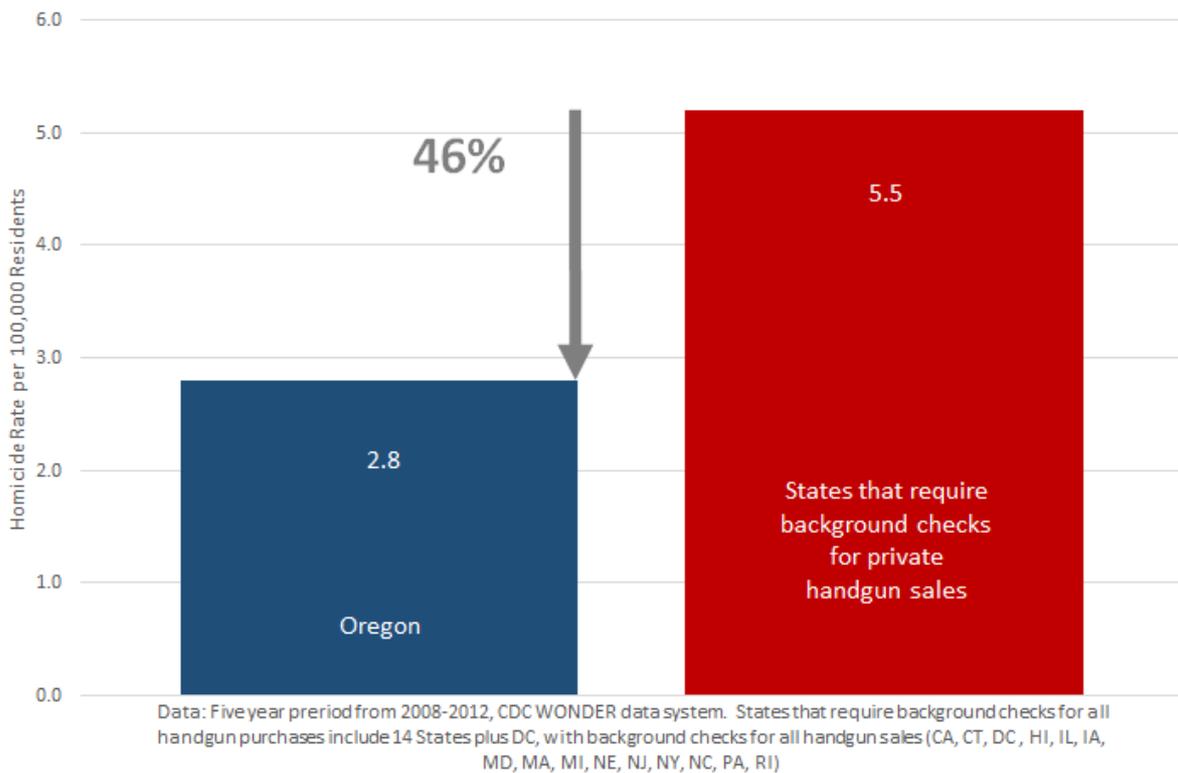
Oregon is an exception to the rule in that we employ ~38% fewer officers than states with background checks for all handgun sales.

Note: Everytown’s original estimate over the same time line was “39% fewer law enforcement are shot to death with handguns”^{xc}. And everyone bought it as it is often cited by politicians as one of their base reasons for supporting expanding background checks. Now the number has magically changed to “48%” with no explanation^{xc}, other than adding one year (2000) to the data.

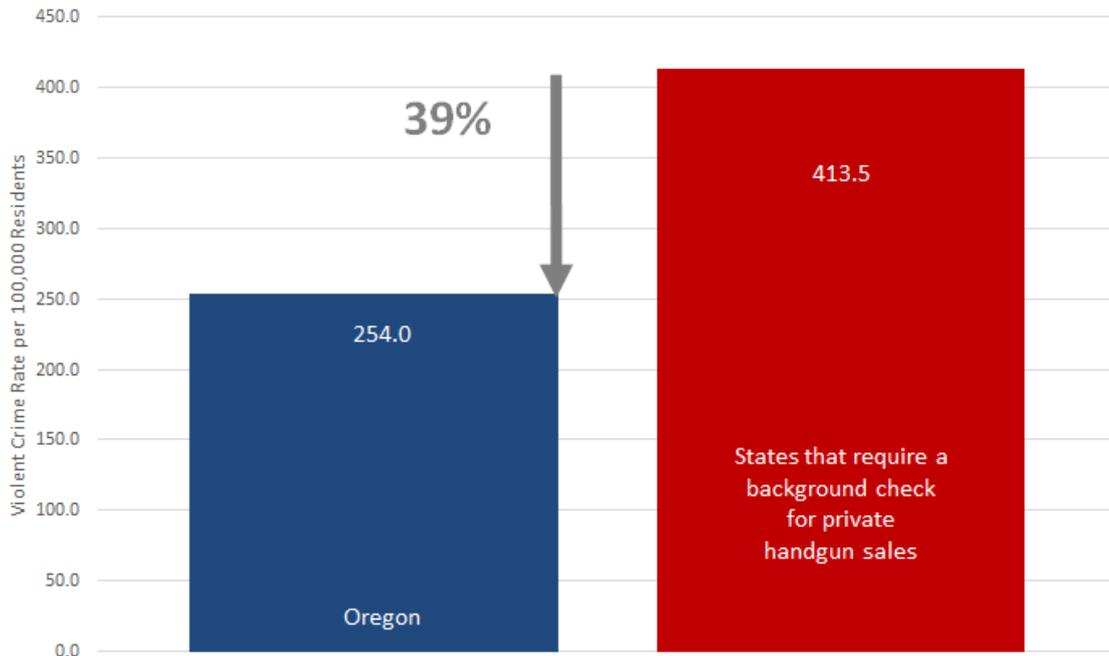
Compared to states that require background checks for all handgun sales,
The CDC Homicide rate when a firearm is used in Oregon is 62 percent less



Compared to states that require background checks for all handgun sales,
The CDC Homicide rate in Oregon is 46 percent less

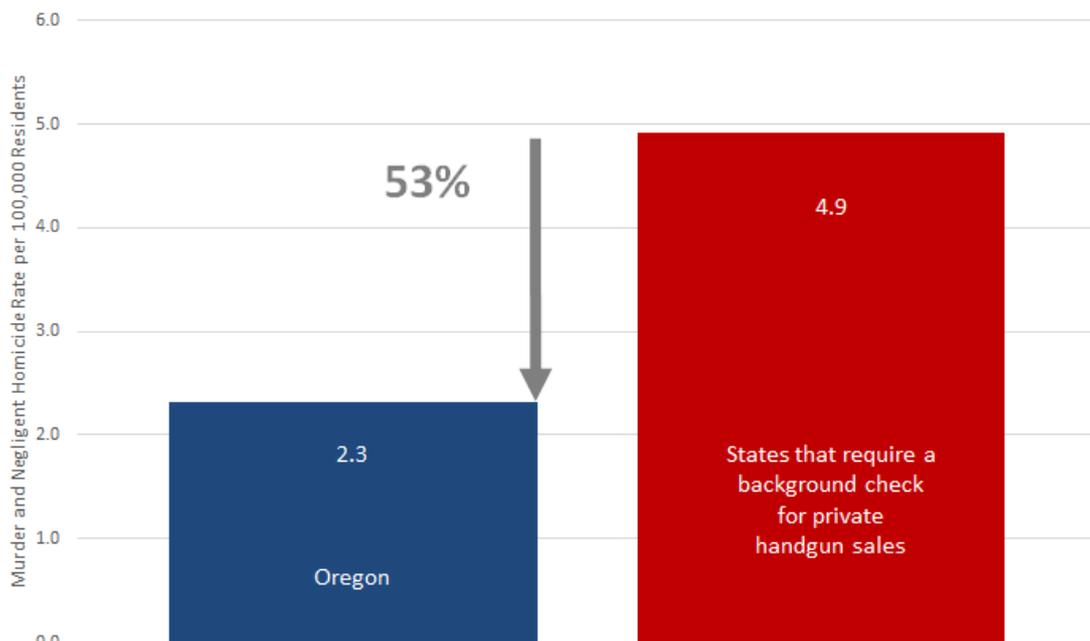


Compared to states that require background checks for all handgun sales,
The FBI Violent Crime Rate in Oregon is 39 percent less



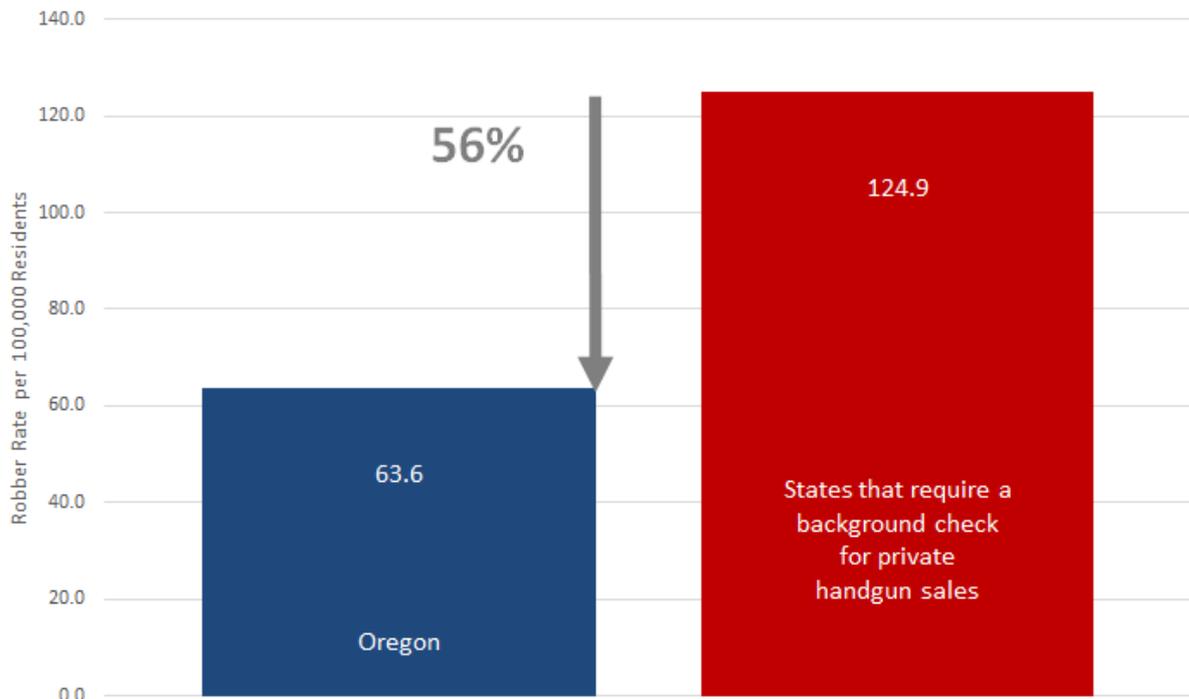
Data: Five year period from 2008-2012, FBI Uniform Crime Report. States that require background checks for all handgun purchases include 14 States plus DC, with background checks for all handgun sales (CA, CT, HI, IL, IA, MD, MA, MI, NE, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI)

Compared to states that require background checks for all handgun sales,
The FBI Murder and Negligent Homicide Rate in Oregon is 53 percent less



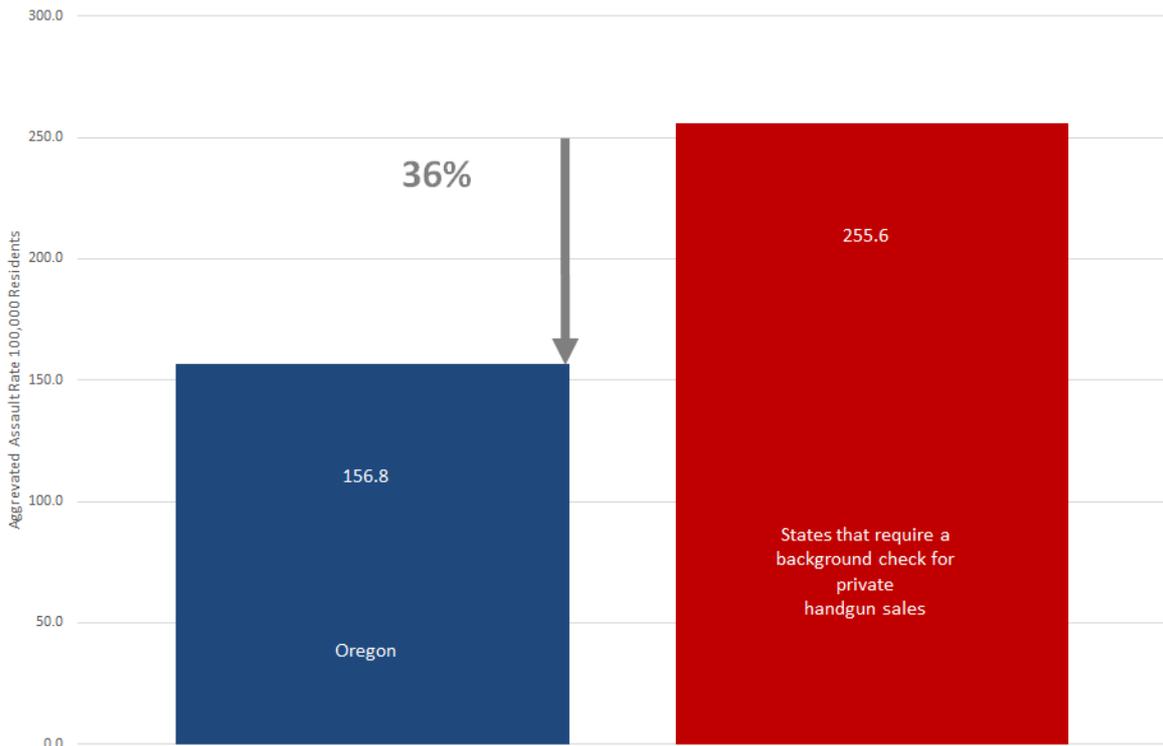
Data: Five year period from 2008-2012, FBI Uniform Crime Report. States that require background checks for all handgun purchases include 14 States plus DC, with background checks for all handgun sales (CA, CT, HI, IL, IA, MD, MA, MI, NE, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI)

Compared to states that require background checks for all handgun sales,
The FBI Robbery Rate in Oregon is 56 percent **less**



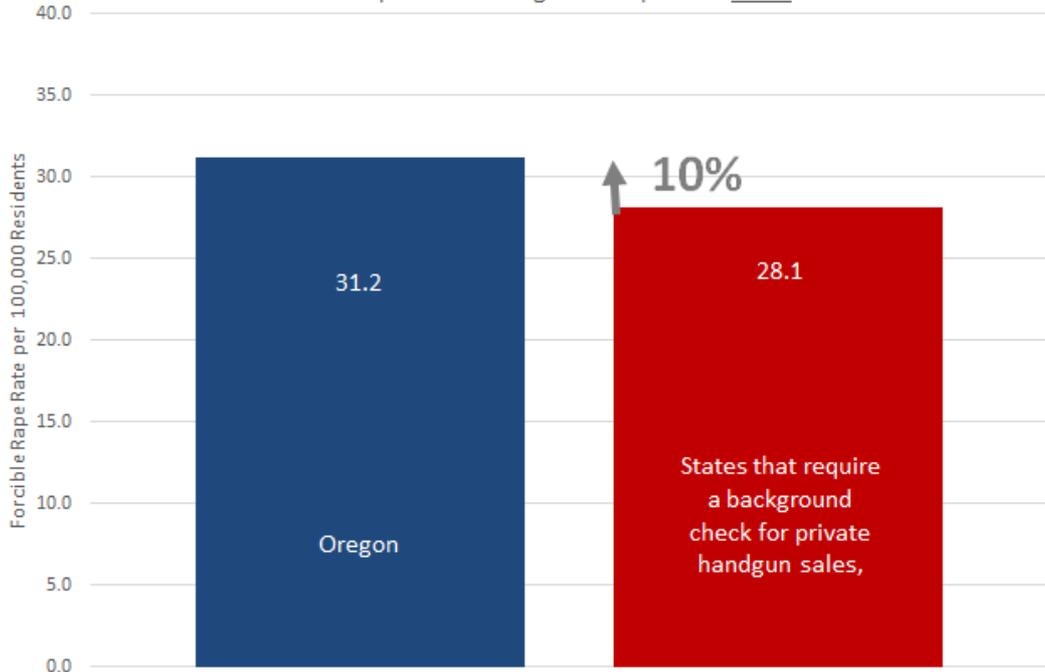
Data: Five year period from 2008-2012, FBI Uniform Crime Report. States that require background checks for all handgun purchases include 14 States plus DC, with background checks for all handgun sales (CA, CT, HI, IL, IA, MD, MA, MI, NE, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI)

Compared to states that require background checks for all handgun sales,
The FBI Aggravated Assault Rate in Oregon is 36 percent **less**



Data: Five year period from 2008-2012, FBI Uniform Crime Report. States that require background checks for all handgun purchases include 14 States plus DC, with background checks for all handgun sales (CA, CT, HI, IL, IA, MD, MA, MI, NE, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI)

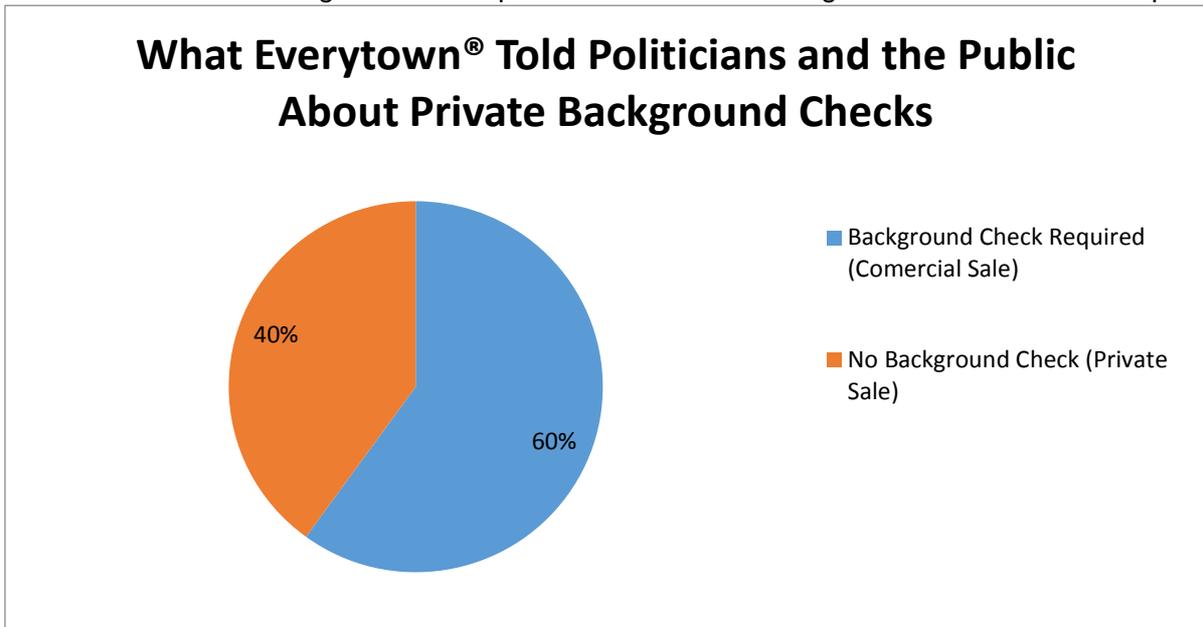
Compared to states that require background checks for all handgun sales,
The FBI Forcible Rape Rate in Oregon is 10 percent **more**



Data: Five year period from 2008-2012, FBI Uniform Crime Report. States that require background checks for all handgun purchases include 14 States plus DC, with background checks for all handgun sales (CA, CT, HI, IL, IA, MD, MA, MI, NE, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI)

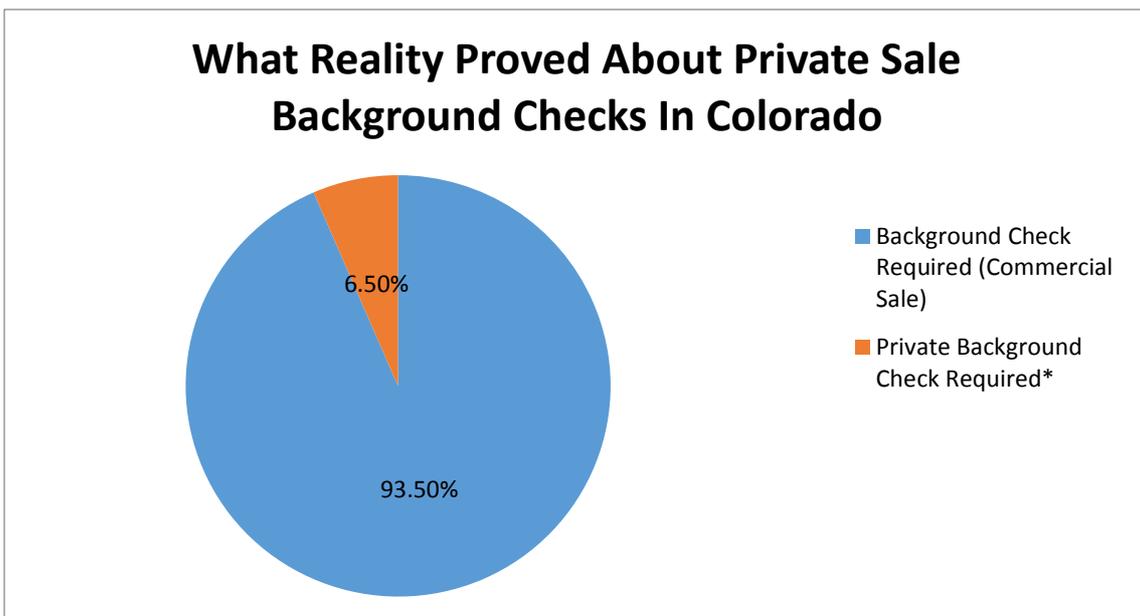
12 THE EFFECTS OF COLORADOS BACKGROUND CHECK LAW

Or how the “40% of gun sales are performed without a background checks” has been proven.



Colorado has much in common with Oregon. Especially the rural and urban divide, where major population centers are just minutes away from natural beauty. This similarity also extends to including a law for background checks for all private sales at gun-shows. And now it appears that Oregon plans to follow the path laid by Colorado by introducing its own universal background check law. So a good question to ask, after two years, what has been the effect of the law?

After passing the Universal Background Check law the state of Colorado budgeted an extra \$3 million for the background check system based on the 40% figure touted by the gun-control lobbyists. A prediction of 420,000 additional checks in the first two years^{xci}. So what was the actual number of private sale background checks? 13,600 in the first year. Or 6.5% of all background checks (13.6k divided by 210k).



Not even close the gun control lobby can find a way to round that up to 40%. If the gun-control lobby is willing to overestimate figures like this by such a large margin (and waste of money and police resources) in order to get laws passed that they like, what else are they wrong about that hasn't been uncovered yet?

There is the political aftermath, including three politicians being recalled/resigning. The following election some of those positions were re-seated by pro-gun control legislators. But at least one was by a pro-2nd amendment Democrat. Even the Governor tried to backtrack on the issue as he was seeking re-election. Going so far as to blame a promise on an aid as to why he passed one of the laws (magazine ban) and stating to a group of sheriffs that he was misled on many of the bills basic^{xciii}.

(Note: the actual study result was 36%, and mostly completed before the 1994 Brady background check law went into effect, with a sample size of ~251 individuals, less than 1/10th the usual size for a national poll in order to have a repeatable margin of error).

In addition, the category of "Private Background Check Required" also included private to private citizen sales at Gun-Shows! Something already required by law. So the actual number of new background checks for private sales is even smaller. Unfortunately the State of Colorado does not collect information (or at least releases) on the location of the private sales; gun-show or no gun-show. So 6.5% is the smallest we can prove for now.

If you listen/google closely enough, you might even hear gun-owners and sheriffs across the country whispering "I told you so".

I know, "gun-sense" isn't done yet. "But 260 dangerous people were denied". Often it is made to sound that every single denial was keeping a dangerous felons and domestic abuser from committing their next crime; Charles Mason's stopped from their next killing spree by a simple check.

Measuring a law like this by the number of denials is just avoiding admitting defeat. It is the equivalent of saying your home football team is better than the rival because your team has more fans in the stadium seats. Who cares if the other team scored more points. If the law is sold as reducing crime, then it is a measurable metric. Measuring denials is simply a way of delaying a future problem. Much like coming to the truth at the end of the season that your favorite football team is never going to have a winning streak, no matter how popular they are.

"Background check denials" will be a separate section in a future version of this report. In the meantime, it is worth touching on that a denial can happen for several reasons. And not all of them for being violent criminals:

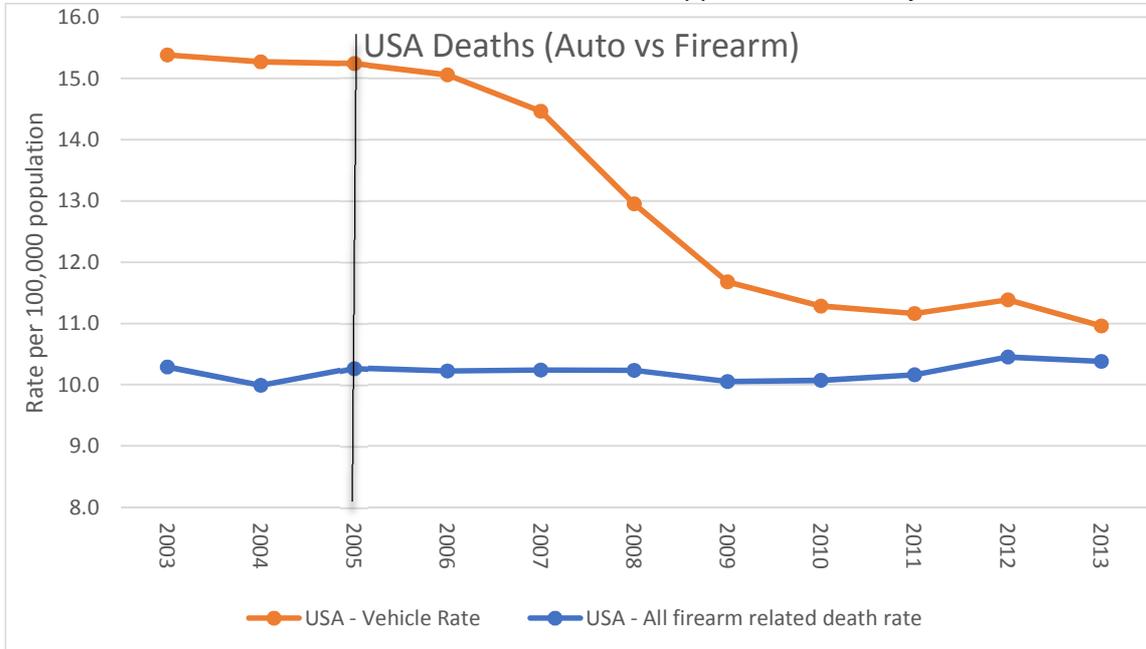
- False Positive. As an example; Senator Ted Kennedy was denied entry to an airport 5 times because his name kept coming up on the TSA do-not-fly list. This can also happen if your identity is stolen, or your information is close to that of a real criminal.
- Conviction for a crime long forgotten. Break the law 40 years ago when you were "young and stupid", but you've lived clean ever since? Or maybe you were arrested for having a few ounces of marijuana on your person 20 years ago. Guess what: You could be the next "violent felon denied access to a firearm".
- Live in an area where you forgot or skipped out on jury duty, or not paying tickets? Or some other misdemeanor? You could end up with a warrant out for your arrest.

In 2013, the Oregon State Police were instructed by the Governor to investigate every denial. Some information has been released to the public, but more is needed to draw a clear picture of just what the denials are.

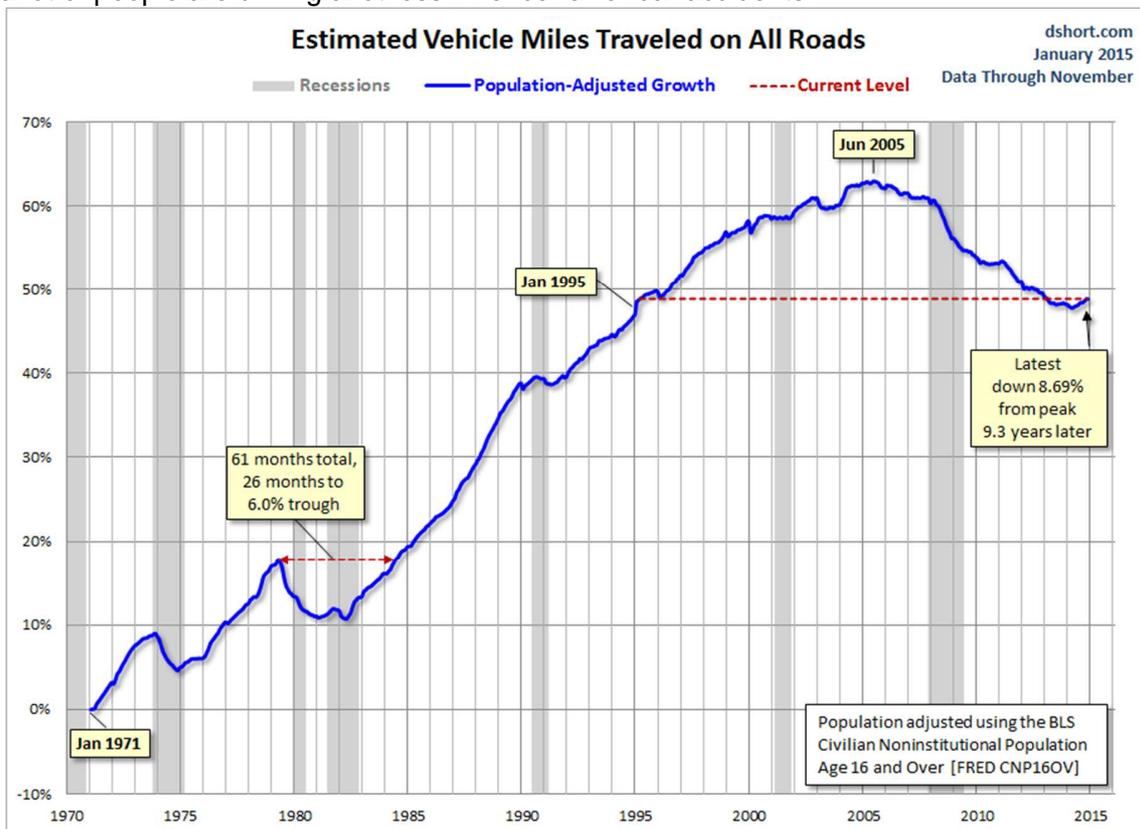
13 GUN RELATED DEATHS ARE HIGHER THAN CAR ACCIDENT DEATHS IN OREGON...

But not for the reason gun-control advocates are telling us.

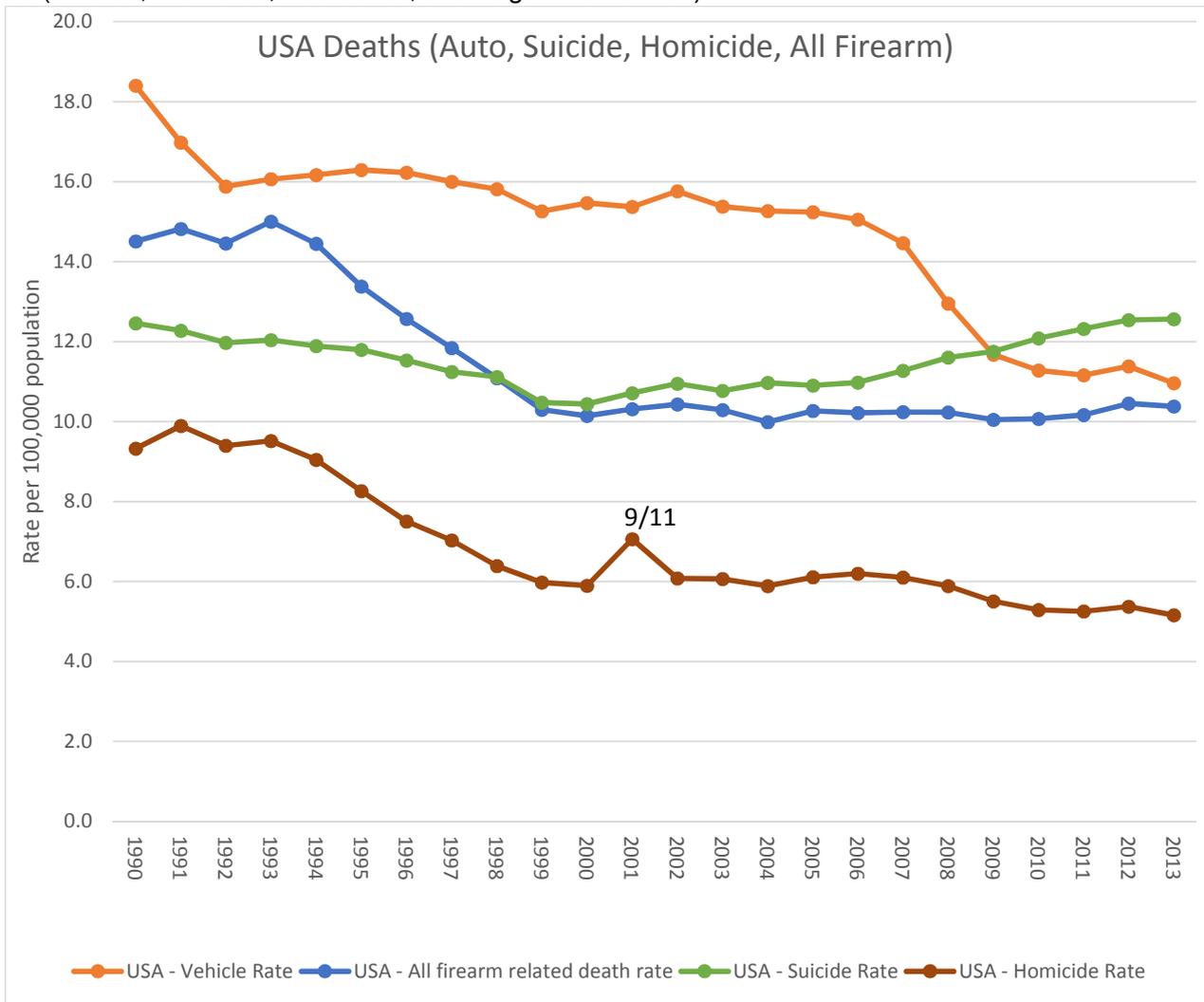
Have you ever heard something like “we should treat the gun-control violence problem like we do for cars. Because cars are more regulated with more controls and safety features there will soon be fewer deaths than [all] gun deaths”. Is that really true? Or is there something else at work? That isn't saying that improvements in roads and car safety hasn't reduced vehicle fatalities. But there is a more obvious answer as to why, since the mid 2000's, our state and nation have seen car fatalities dropped so drastically.



The below chart from Advisor Perspectives financial review of USA miles traveled^{xiv}. Note the year 2005. It looks like a lot of people are driving a lot less. Hence fewer car accidents.



The following graph actually gives us a better picture of what to expect in the future regarding homicides and suicide. Suicide and Homicide are respective rates for all methods. Firearm Related Deaths are from all sources (Suicide, Homicide, Accidental, and Legal Intervention).

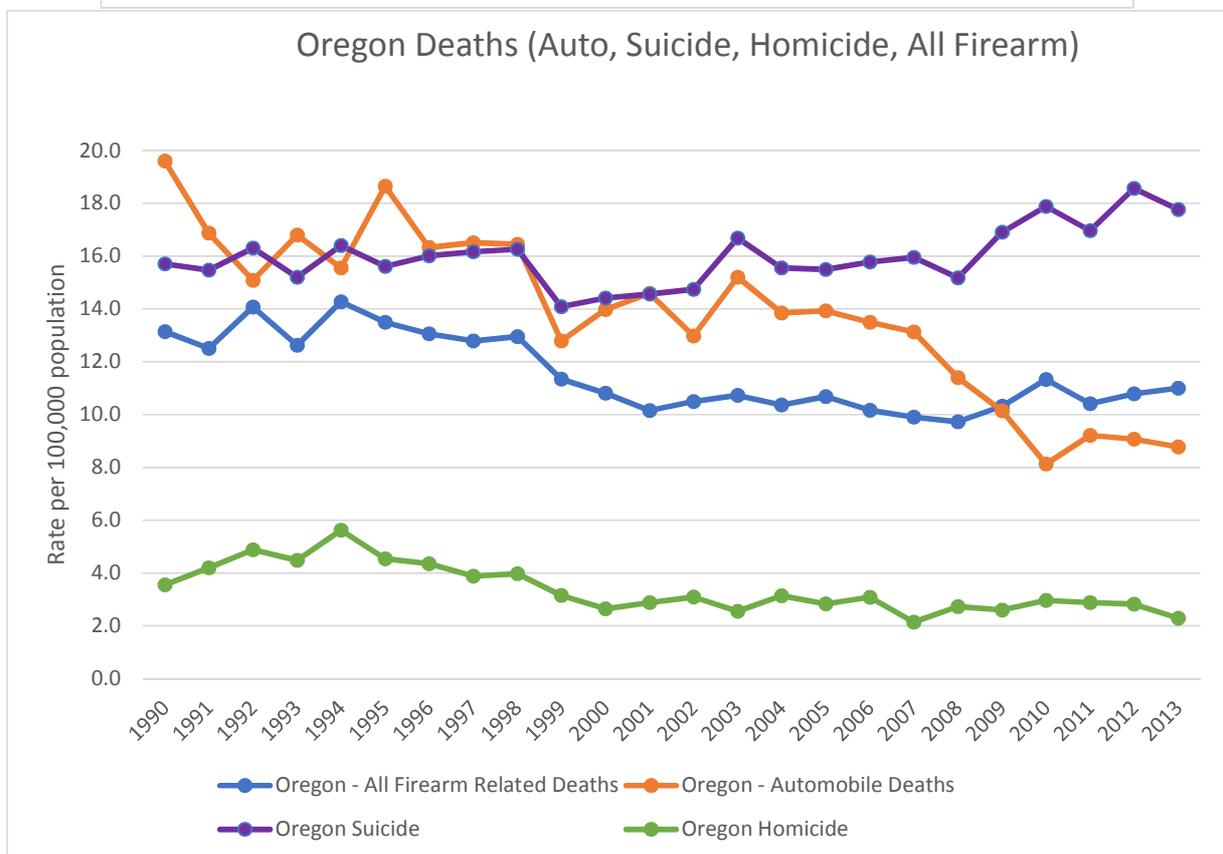
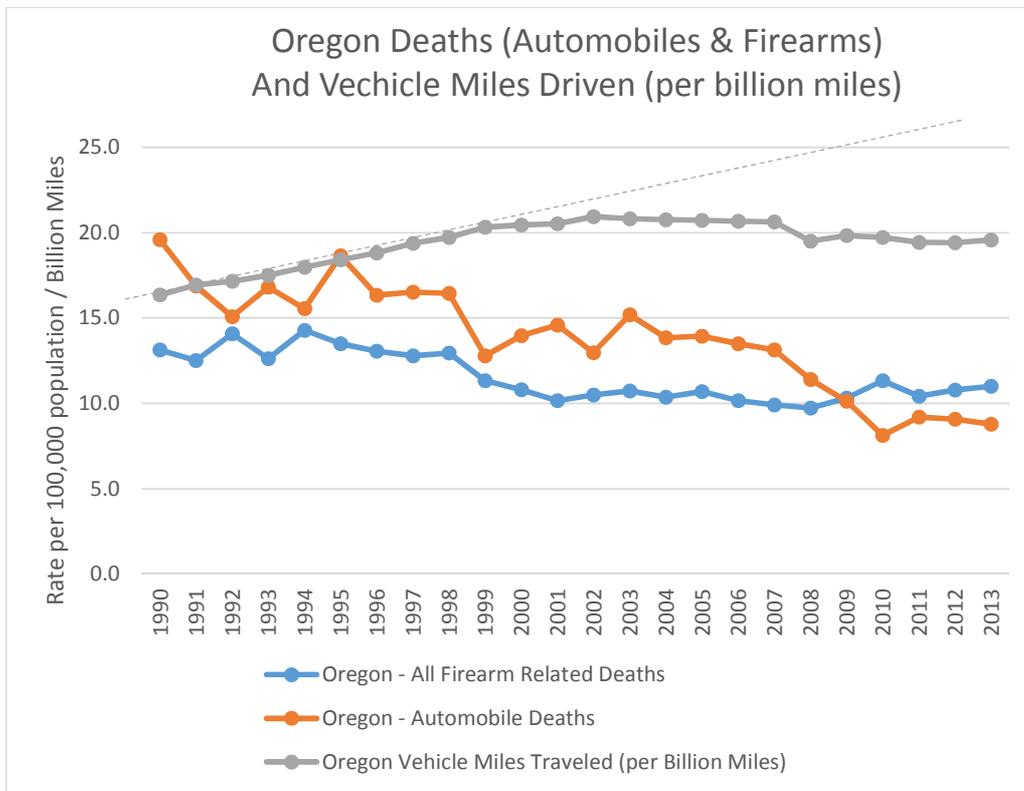


Is the year 2000 the year “All Suicide Deaths” overtook “All Gun Deaths”?

Is year 2009 the year when more people were killed in suicides than car crashes?

Where are the cries to stop the suicide epidemic? Is it Crime or Mental Health the answer to reducing “gun violence” (i.e. all gun related deaths)?

Here is the corresponding graphs for Oregon Vehicle Miles Traveled^{xv} and Car Accidents^{xvi} along with the previous CDC firearm, homicide and suicide information. Unfortunately data for Oregon recession periods were not located at the time of this reports writing. Suicide and Homicide are respective rates for all methods. Firearm Related Deaths are from all sources (Suicide, Homicide, Accidental, and Legal Intervention)



14 WHO IS THE MONEY BEHIND GUN CONTROL? (AND WHAT DOES HE WANT?)

Not a big surprise here; Former New York City Mayor and financial billionaire Michael Bloomberg. But what is really motivating him to get so involved in gun-control? Why spend so much money hiring so many people to push an agenda with questionable results? But this is a question that we actually get an answer to. A reporter from the New York Times was able to ask him that very question. Here's his ultimate reasoning in his own words from the article^{xvii}:

Mr. Bloomberg was introspective as he spoke, and seemed both restless and wistful. When he sat down for the interview, it was a few days before his 50th college reunion. His mortality has started dawning on him, at 72. And he admitted he was a bit taken aback by how many of his former classmates had been appearing in the "in memoriam" pages of his school newsletter.

*But if he senses that he may not have as much time left as he would like, he has little doubt about what would await him at a Judgment Day. Pointing to his work on gun safety, obesity and smoking cessation, he said with a grin: **"I am telling you if there is a God, when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close."** – NYT April 15, 2014*

I wonder how many of the groups and individuals he supports knows what their role really is in his grand

In Vermont, even Democrat senators and reps have started to see thru this and started turning down Bloomberg's gun-control bills. Gun-sense VT has billed itself repeatedly as a 'grass-roots' movement. Yet during a recent hearing, when the lobbyist was asked his opinion about a change to a particular gun-control bill, the lobbyist responded that he needed to get "national expertise to review" before agreeing to support ^{itxvii}. National buy-in? So much for the grassroots camouflage.

15 A SHORT EXPLANATION FOR WHY GUN OWNERS FEEL THE WAY THEY DO

An illustrative Guide as to why gun owners are leery of "just one more common-sense, reasonable gun control law"

ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO GUN CONTROL

- Q:** Will you continue a reasonable discussion towards an end that might lead somewhere or is this an exercise in futility?
A: Since what you consider to be reasonable isn't even in the same plane of reality with what I consider reasonable, probably not.

Allow me to explain.

Let's say I have this cake.
 It's a very nice cake, with "GUN RIGHTS"
 written across the top in lovely floral icing.



Along you come and say, "Give me that cake."

I say, "No, it's my cake."
 You say, "Let's compromise. Give me half!"
 I respond by asking what I get out of this compromise,
 and you reply that I get to keep half of my cake.

Okay, we compromise. Let us call this compromise
 The National Firearms Act of 1934.

There I am with my half of the cake,
 and you walk back up and say, "Give me that cake."

I say, "No, it's my cake."
 You say, "Let's compromise."
 What do I get out of this compromise?
 Why, I get to keep half of what's left of the cake I already own.

So, we have your compromise--
 let us call this one the Gun Control Act of 1968--
 and I'm left holding what is now just a quarter of my cake.



And I'm sitting in the corner with my quarter piece of cake,
 and here you come again.
 You want my cake. Again.

This time you take several bites--
 we'll call this compromise the Clinton Executive Orders--
 and I'm left with about a tenth of what has always been
 MY DAMN CAKE and you've got nine-tenths of it.

Then we compromised with the Lautenberg Act (nibble, nibble),
 the HUD/Smith and Wesson agreement (nibble, nibble),
 the Brady Law (NOM NOM NOM),
 the School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act
 (sweet tap-dancing Freyja, my finger!)

I'm left holding crumbs of what was once a large and satisfying cake,
 and you're standing there with most of MY CAKE, making anime eyes

Y won't u compromise?
 Y r u so mean?
 puppyface.jpg
 you have GOT TO BE kidding me...
 baww~
 don't u care about the children?
 and whining about being "reasonable",
 and wondering "why we won't compromise".

I'm done with being reasonable, and I'm done with compromise.
AAARGH
SCREW THIS CRAP
I WANT MY DAMN CAKE BACK
ALL OF IT
 Nothing about gun control in this country has ever been "reasonable"
 nor a genuine "compromise".

Text by the LawDog @thelawdogfiles.blogspot.com
 Art by DK @hsgcanet&facebook.com/HaSoGCA

16 SUBJECTS TO BE ADDED IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF THIS REPORT

- Domestic Violence in Oregon– How a billionaires bull-horn is clouding analysis of real solutions and trends (or “why do so many states with Brady A gun-control ratings have twice the rate of non-gun domestic violence homicides? Why Everytown®’s numbers are clouding solutions and discussions that could save lives)
- Additional look at states/cities that have reduced crime in comparison to Oregon
- Comparison of Oregon to European Countries (the top safest states are closer than you think)
- Gun-Violence as a “national health crises“. It’s been tried before already.
 - Why treating the symptom instead of the diseases will keep killing the patient
 - Why do pediatrics report 24 year olds as a “child” in their gun-violence reports, when those 24 year olds are driving tanks in Iraq?
 - A review of how a medical “study” on gun-violence breaks down if you get past the twitter length synopsis.
- Current Oregon Background Check Denials – who are these people, anyways? Personal stories of “I’m denied?”.
- “Gun-violence” – We are calling it the wrong thing.
- The Brady Score vs Gun-Control Laws Actual Effectiveness
- (and any new information to update or better analysis subjects already covered)

-
- i PEW Research Center, Gun Homicide Rate Down 49% Since 1993 Peak; Public Unaware , <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/05/07/gun-homicide-rate-down-49-since-1993-peak-public-unaware/>
- ii US Department of Justice – The Nation’s Two Measures of Homicide, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ntmh.pdf>
- iii FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Statistics (1960-2012); <http://www.ucrdatatool.gov/Search/Crime/Crime.cfm>
FBI UCR (2013); <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013>
National Center for Health Statistic; <https://web.archive.org/web/20011209060909/http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance/tables/hmrmttab.htm>
- iv CDC WISQARS System (1981-2013) and US Department health, education and welfare 1940-1960,
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsus/vsrates1940_60.pdf
- v Gallup, “Most Americans Believe Crime in U.S. Is Worsening”, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/150464/americans-believe-crime-worsening.aspx>
- vi Gun Homicide Rate 1910, VITAL STATISTICS RATES IN THE UNITED STATES 1900-1940,
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsus/vsrates1900_40.pdf
- vii Christian Science monitor, “US crime rate is down: six key reasons”, <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2010/0524/US-crime-rate-is-down-six-key-reasons>
- viii BBC News Magazine, “Did removing lead from petrol spark a decline in crime?“, <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-27067615>
- ix U.S. Murder Rate On Track To Be Lowest In More Than 100 Years, [absence of lead as a cause], <http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/u-s-murder-rate-on-track-to-be-lowest-in-more-than-100-years/>
- x “Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors that Explain the Decline and Six that Do Not”, Steven D. Levitt,
<http://pricetheory.uchicago.edu/levitt/Papers/LevittUnderstandingWhyCrime2004.pdf>
- xi <http://jacksonville.com/opinion/editorials/2012-01-27/story/three-rules-staying-out-poverty>
- xii National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Traffic Safety Facts 2013 Data, Alcohol-Impaired Driving, Table 4, <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/812102.pdf>
- xiii Oregon Health Authority, TABLE 6-3. Selected leading causes of death with rates, Oregon residents, 1994- 2013
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/annualreports/13v2/Documents/table603.pdf>
- xiv Mother-Jones, Oct 2014, “Yes, Mass Shootings Are Occurring More Often”, <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/10/mass-shootings-rising-harvard>
- xv Dr. Grant Duwe, The Truth About Mass Public Shootings, <http://reason.com/archives/2014/10/28/the-truth-about-mass-public-shootings>
- xvi Center of Disease and Control (CDC) WISQARS™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) reporting system.
http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html
- xvii Graph is reflective of states that have approved or removed background check laws for all handgun sales at the appropriate years.
Pre-Existing (prior 1990): (DC, HI, IL, MA, MI, NJ, NY, RI)
States/Years Background Checks Effective: (CA 1991, CO 2013, CT 1995, DE 2013, IA 1991, MD 1996, NE 1991, NC 1995, PA 1995)
States/Years Background Checks Rescinded: (MI 2007, IN 1998, TN 1998). (upcoming: another report on states that dropped background checks)
- xviii Center of Disease and Control (CDC) WISQARS™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) reporting system.
- xix FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr>
- xx FBI Definition of offences, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offense-definitions>
- xxi 2004 election exit poll of 21 states.
- xxii Prevalence of Household Firearms and Firearm-Storage Practices in the 50 States and the District of Columbia: Findings From the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002 <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/116/3/e370.full.pdf+html>
- xxiii Brady Campaign/Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence: 2013 state scorecard: Why Gun laws matter, <http://smartgunlaws.org/2013-state-scorecard-why-gun-laws-matter/>
- xxiv 2013 FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR), Table 4, Violent Crime Rate, Rape (legacy Definition), Robbery, Aggravated Assault
- xxv Prevalence of Household Firearms and Firearm-Storage Practices in the 50 States and the District of Columbia: Findings From the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002 <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/116/3/e370.full.pdf+html>
- xxvi Brady Campaign/Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence: 2013 state scorecard: Why Gun laws matter, <http://smartgunlaws.org/2013-state-scorecard-why-gun-laws-matter/>
- xxvii 2013 FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR), Table 4, Violent Crime Rate, Rape (legacy Definition), Robbery, Aggravated Assault
- xxviii [Governor] Hickenlooper Admits Background Check Law Passed ‘Without Basic Facts’; <http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/18/hickenlooper-admits-background-check-law-passed-without-basic-facts/>
- xxix Colorado Senate Approves Repeal Of New Gun Background Checks, March 24th 2015;
<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2015/03/24/background-check-gun-debate-returns-to-colorado-senate/>
- xxx DenverPost, Democrats sign on to bill repealing ammunition magazine limits, Feb 6 2015;
<http://blogs.denverpost.com/thespot/2015/02/06/democrats-sign-bill-repealing-ammo-magazine-limits/117125/>
- xxxi Washington Post, Obama’s continued use of the claim that 40 percent of gun sales lack background checks
; http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/obamas-continued-use-of-the-claim-that-40-percent-of-gun-sales-lack-background-checks/2013/04/01/002e06ce-9b0f-11e2-a941-a19bce7af755_blog.html
- xxxii AP analysis: Expanded state gun background checks based on flawed estimate, July 25th, 2014.
<http://kdvr.com/2014/07/25/ap-analysis-expanded-state-gun-background-checks-based-on-flawed-estimate/>
- xxxiii Massachusetts Gun Control Act 1998, <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/police/firearmapp.nar.pdf>

xxxiv Boston.com, “Gun crimes increase in Massachusetts despite tough gun laws”,
<http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2013/02/04/gun-crimes-increase-massachusetts-despite-tough-gun-laws/XjIDQLZIUdvsf3KS8PqyGK/story.html>

xxxv Chelsea Record, MA, “Crime Drops 6% in First Half of 14”, <http://www.chelsearecord.com/2014/08/29/crime-drops-6-in-first-half-of-14/>

xxxvi ROCA, Less Jail, more Future, <http://rocainc.org/>

xxxvii North Suffolk Mental Health Association, MA, <http://northsuffolk.org/>

xxxviii Boston.com, MA, “Crime rate drops during 2013”, <http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2014/01/26/crime-rate-drops-during/FRVcSwyK69XL47s3TF3j2O/story.html>

xxxix Huffington Post, “Aurora Homicide-Free: Illinois’ second largest city finishes 2012 without a single murder”, Jan 2 2013; http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/02/aurora-homicide-free-illi_n_2396554.html?

xl KQED News, “Richmond Police Say Homicides are Declining”, Oct 31 2014; <http://www.kqed.org/news/2014/10/29/Richmond-police-data-decline-homicides-crime/>

xli NOLA For Life, <http://www.nolaforlife.org/media/20141216-idt-bloomberg-round-2/>

xlii How America’s Murder Capital is using innovation strategy to reduce violent deaths, Sept, 2013; <http://www.fastcoexist.com/3034879/how-americas-murder-capital-is-using-innovation-strategy-to-reduce-violent-deaths>

xliii New York Times, “Suicide Rates Rise Sharply in U.S.”, May 2 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/03/health/suicide-rate-rises-sharply-in-us.html?_r=0

xliv Violence Police Center, “States with Weak Gun Laws and Higher Gun Ownership Lead Nation in Gun Deaths, New Data for 2013 Confirms”, January 01 2015, <http://www.vpc.org/press/1501gundeath.htm>

xlv Mental Health America, “Parity or Disparity: The State of Mental Health in America 2015”, 2015 report, <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/sites/default/files/Parity%20or%20Disparity%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

xlvi Oregon Health Authority, Firearm Fatalities in Oregon, https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/InjuryFatalityData/Documents/Fact%20Sheets/firearms_2015v02262015.pdf

xlvii Science.mic, “There’s a Suicide Epidemic in Utah — And One Neuroscientist Thinks He Knows Why”, Nov 18 2014; <http://mic.com/articles/104096/there-s-a-suicide-epidemic-in-utah-and-one-neuroscientist-thinks-he-knows-why>

xlviii Lifenew.com, “Assisted suicide advocacy raising suicide rates nationwide”, May 6 2013; <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/05/06/assisted-suicide-advocacy-raising-suicide-rates-nationwide/>

xlix MadInAmerica. Science psychiatry and Community, “Suicides rise dramatically with increasing psychiatric care”, Sept 3, 2014; <http://www.madinamerica.com/2014/09/suicides-rise-increasing-psychiatric-involvement/>

l Oregonlive, “Why Oregon’s suicide rate is among highest in the country, May 15 2013; http://www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2013/05/why_oregons_suicide_rate_is_am.html

li OregonLive, Oregon Gun Store Owner tried to block Troubled Woman From Buying Gun, April 26 2013; http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/04/oregon_gun_store_owner_tried_t.html

lii CDC, “Suicide prevention investment needed to reverse trend of increasing suicide”, Oct 8 2014; <https://www.afsp.org/news-events/in-the-news/suicide-prevention-investment-needed-to-reverse-trend-of-increasing-suicide>

liii Oregon 2000 Ballot Measure 5, Arguments in Favor, <http://oregonvotes.org/pages/history/archive/nov72000/guide/ma/m5/5fa.htm>

liv Senator Ginny Burdick, <http://burdickfororegon.com/accomplishments>

lv List of upcoming gun-shows in Oregon: <http://www.gunshows-usa.com/oregon.shtml> <http://wesknodelgunshows.com/pages/EXPO.html>

lvi Oregonian, “Crossfire on Measure 5”, Oct 22, 2000; <https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1310&dat=20001022&id=r0xWAAAAIBAJ&sjid=9usDAAAAIBAJ&pg=5007,6169773&hl=en>

lvii Senator Burdick, Audio testimony for WA gun-show bill, 2007, <http://www.oregonfirearms.org/audio/burdickolympia.mp3>

lviii Sen. Ginny Burdick, “Senator Burdick testifies to Washington State Legislature”, WA State SB 5197, February 26 2007, <http://www.oregonfirearms.org/pdfs/burdickspr.pdf>

lix Senator Burdick, “registration would be my dream”, Jan 2013; <https://youtu.be/OT93EuLs9Gs>

lx Watchdog wire, “GINNY BURDICK QUOTES FALSE STATISTICS, OPPOSES LEGAL FIREARM FUNDRAISER”, June 15 2013; <http://watchdogwire.com/northwest/2013/06/15/ginny-burdick-quotes-false-statistics-opposes-legal-firearm-fundraiser/>
<http://watchdogwire.com/northwest/2013/06/15/ginny-burdick-quotes-false-statistics-opposes-legal-firearm-fundraiser/>

lxi Seattle PI, “Gun Show Check Bill Moves Along”, Mar 4 2007; <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Gun-show-check-bill-moves-along-1230110.php>

lxii “The Effect of Gun Shows on Gun-Related Deaths: Evidence from California and Texas”, Feb 2009, <http://closup.umich.edu/files/closup-wp-1-gunshows.pdf> <http://closup.umich.edu/files/closup-wp-1-gunshows.pdf>

lxiii Willamette Week, “The Gun”, James Pitkin, August 2nd 2011, http://wwweek.com/portland/article-17808-the_gun.html

lxiv CeaseFire Oregon, “CeaseFire Oregon Supports SB 1551”, 02/042014, <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/33306>

lxv John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, “Legal status and source of offenders’ firearms in states with the least stringent criteria for gun ownership”, 03/07/2012, <http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/19/1/26.%20abstract?sid=e5b439d8-15e8-4913-9085-eb303da51901>

lxvi Bureau of Justice and Statistics, Survey of State Prison Inmates, 2004, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=275>

lxvii Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Firearm Violence, 1993-2011”, May 2013, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fv9311.pdf>

lxviii National Sports Shooting Federation, FixNics website; <http://www.fixnics.org/>

lxix Bureau of Justice and Statistics, Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1997, <http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fuo.pdf>

^{lxx} Willamette Week, "The Gun", James Pitkin, August 2nd 2011, http://wweek.com/portland/article-17808-the_gun.html

^{lxxi} "Don't Like for the Other Guy", National Sport Shooting Foundation, <http://www.dontlie.org/>

^{lxxii} Oregonlive, "ATF tactics flawed in highly-touted undercover Oregon operation aimed at guns and drugs", Jan 25 2014; http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2014/01/atf_tactics_flawed_in_highly-t.html

^{lxxiii} Gunfacts.info, Interstate Gun Trafficking Mythology; <http://www.gunfacts.info/blog/interstate-gun-trafficking-mythology/>

^{lxxiv} John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, "Repeal of Missouri's Background Check Law Associated with Increase in State's Murders ", 02/17/2014, <http://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2014/repeal-of-missouris-background-law-associated-with-increase-in-states-murders.html>

^{lxxv} Timesfreepress.com, Oct 13, 2013, "Expert says: We're safer despite Tennessee's No. 1 crime ranking, but numbers are a call to action", <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2013/oct/13/were-safer-despite-tennessees-no-1-crime/121213/>

^{lxxvi} Missourian, Oct, 19th, 2007, "Handgun sales steady after introduction of Castle Doctrine law", <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/98433/handgun-sales-steady-after-introduction-of-castle-doctrine-law/>

^{lxxvii} John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, "Repeal of Missouri's Background Check Law Associated with Increase in State's Murders ", 12/17/2013, http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/_pdfs/effects-of-missouris-repeal-of-its-handgun-purchaser-licensing-law-on-homicides.pdf

^{lxxviii} Khan Academy, "Correlation and Causality", <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/probability/statistical-studies/types-of-studies/v/correlation-and-causality>

^{lxxix} CDC, Policy on reporting numbers to general public, http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/dataRestriction_inj.html

^{lxxx} Justin Peters, Crime, A blog about murder, theft and other wickedness, "California's Strict New Access Prevention Law Won't Do Much to Stop Child Shooting Deaths ", Oct 15, 2013, http://www.slate.com/blogs/crime/2013/10/15/firearm_safe_and_responsible_access_act_california_s_strict_new_access_prevention.html

^{lxxxii} Laura Yuen, MPRNews, "Accidental child shootings: Parents rarely prosecuted", 12/24/2012, <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2012/12/26/prosecutors-weigh-case-of-accidental-shooting-death-of-minneapolis-toddler#map>

^{lxxxiii} Oregon Law, http://www.oregoncrimes.com/oregon_child_neglect_in_the_firs.html

^{lxxxiii} Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program, <http://eddieeagle.nra.org/>

^{lxxxiv} Project Child Safe, <http://www.projectchildsafesafe.org/>

^{lxxxv} Project Child Safe, Oregon sources, http://www.nssf.org/safety/gunlocks/tour_info.cfm?state=OR

^{lxxxvi} Project Child Safe, 70 million gun safe locks handed out to public, <http://www.projectchildsafesafe.org/about>

^{lxxxvii} ABC News, 20/20, "Young Guns", 11:48 time mark, January, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HYR65H5nvE>

^{lxxxviii} Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, Straight Talk About Risks (is there a better source?), <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/publications/abstract.aspx?ID=153506>

^{lxxxix} Eddie Eagle Program, Grants, <http://eddieeagle.nra.org/grant-funding.aspx>

^{xc} 39% Everytown/Mayors Against Illegal Guns Police shot with a handgun not their own report; http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/a2/3/1982/MAIG_-_2_-_Background_checks_national_charts_-_b.pdf

^{xcii} 48% Everytown Police Shot with Handgun Not Their Own Report; <http://everytown.org/documents/2015/01/law-enforcement-background-checks-fact-sheet.pdf>

^{xciii} AP: Expanded gun sale background checks in Colorado led to fewer reviews than expected, Jul 25 2014; <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/ap-expanded-gun-sale-background-checks-in-colorado-led-to-fewer-reviews-than-expected>

^{xciii} [Governor] Hickenlooper Admits Background Check Law Passed 'Without Basic Facts'; <http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/18/hickenlooper-admits-background-check-law-passed-without-basic-facts/>

^{xciv} Advisor Perspectives, Chart: Estimated Vehicle Miles Traveled on All Roads, <http://www.advisorperspectives.com/dshort/charts/indicators/miles-traveled.html?miles-traveled.gif>

^{xcv} Oregon State Department Transportation, Vehicle Miles Traveled, http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TDATA/Pages/tsm/vmtpage.aspx#Oregon_VMT_Graph

^{xcvi} New York Times, "Bloomberg Plans a \$50 Million Challenge to the N.R.A.", April 15 2014, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/16/us/bloomberg-plans-a-50-million-challenge-to-the-nra.html?hp&r=1>

^{xcvii} Rutland-Herald, "Bickering erupts over motives on gun control" March 24 2015; <http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20150324/NEWS03/703249949>

My Friend asked me once why I carry my gun inside my house. I looked her dead in the eye and said, "The Decepticons". She laughed, I laughed, the toaster laughed, I shot the toaster, it was a good time. (just a little humor ☺)