

The State of Oregon has been grappling with gun crime, mental health issues, and legislative proposals aimed at addressing these problems. This document examines gun crime statistics in Oregon, the effectiveness of infringements on the 2nd amendment in reducing crime, the role of mental health issues involving firearm use, the state's mental health services, and recent Supreme Court rulings regarding Oregon legislator's proposal of SB243.

Gun crime in Oregon has been a pressing issue. Between 2019 and 2023, Oregon recorded **3,125** firearm-related deaths - **77%** of these were suicides. Oregon ranks among the worst states for mental health treatment access with one of the highest rates of mental illness. Rather than addressing these root causes, SB 243 imposes more restrictions that will do little to stop crime or reduce suicides. Studies have shown that individuals with untreated mental health conditions are more likely to engage in violent behavior, including the use of firearms. The correlation between mental health and gun crime underscores the need for comprehensive mental health services and intervention programs to prevent such incidents, NOT useless, vague Senate Bills.

Oregon continues to pass legislation that directly contradicts recent SCOTUS rulings regarding the 2nd amendment. Rather than abiding by these rulings the Democrat controlled legislature continues to pass legislation that squanders resources in a seemingly endless course of litigation.

My conclusion is that the People of Oregon do not need another piece of flawed legislation clouding the issues. Better enforcement and prosecution of existing law would take care of public safety needs. Weak District Attorney's not prosecuting offenders is a much bigger problem to public safety. We do not need another knee-jerk legislative bill.

Without Prejudice,

Duane Cochran