

Campus Carry



HOW DOES IT EFFECT THE LIVES OF STUDENTS AND STAFF IN AMERICA?

Policy Brief by Olivia Nieri

THE PROBLEM

Before 2003, firearms were prohibited on college campuses, but as of late, this has changed, with forty states having passed some form of concealed carry legislation, allowing guns on college campuses. With this allowance of firearms on college campuses comes several negative consequences on the student body and faculty, such as negative mental health implications, reductions in safety on campus, and increased rates of sexual assault seen on campus. These negative effects can be seen as follows,

Allowing campus carry results in an increase of

75%

In guns on campus (Bouffard, 2012).

Sucide by way of handguns is

5.7

times higher in places with less restrictive firearm regulations (Sloan, 1990)

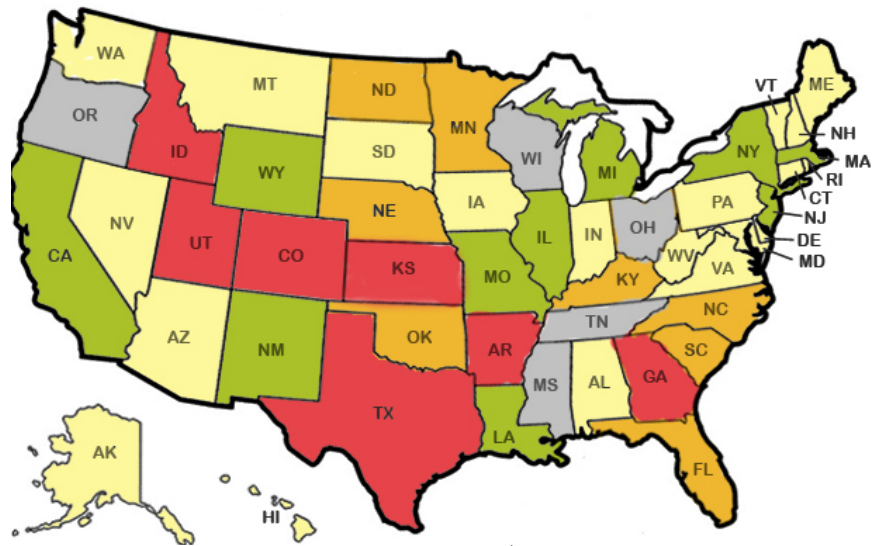
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of faculty members showed lack of support for the campus carry legislation (Kruis, 2019).

36%

increase in the rate of rape was seen in states that enforced the campus carry legislations (Biastro, 2017).

- : Concealed guns allowed by law
- : Concealed guns allowed by law, but schools limit locations/who carries
- : Concealed guns on campus prohibited by law
- : Schools decide weapons policy
- : Concealed guns allowed only in locked cars in parking lots



(Armed Campus, 2020)

"SCHOOLS SHOULD HAVE ABSOLUTELY ZERO TOLERANCE FOR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND, EXCEPT IN THE HANDS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT IS SACRED, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'S SAFE, AND STUDENTS NEED TO FEEL SAFE."

NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre

ONLY 10

States ban campus carry outright

"IF MORE GUNS MEANT LESS CRIME, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE WORLD."

John Woods- victim of the Virginia Tech Shooting

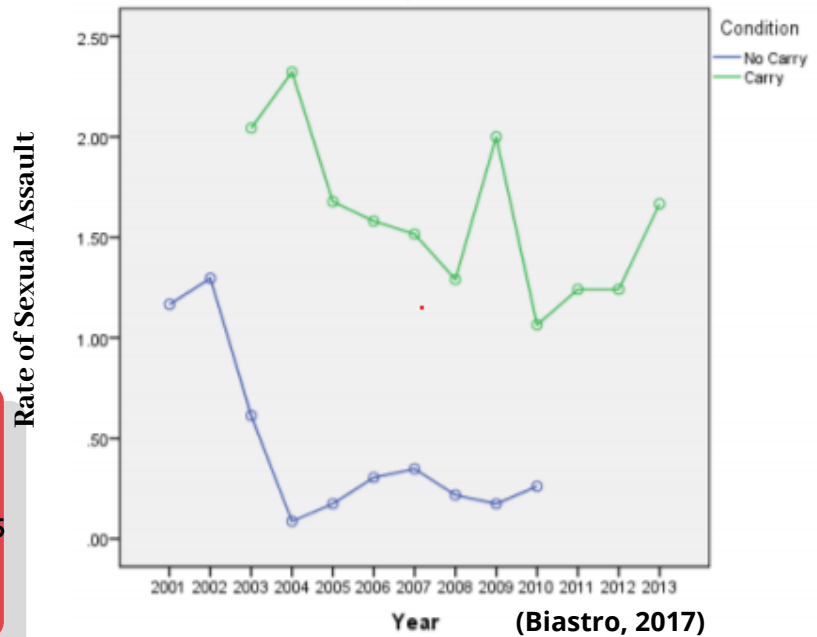
THE EFFECTS: SAFETY OF STUDENTS

One of the most important jobs colleges is to protect their students. Allowing guns leads to the opposite outcome of this goal. Students at campus carry institutions see an increase in the risk of suicide, they also see an increase in the risk of sexual assault. This graph shows that since 2010, colleges in Colorado, Mississippi and Utah that have moved to campus carry have seen a dramatic increase in rates of sexual assault

“The most vulnerable age group for sexual assault and rape is that of women aged 18 to 24.” (Sinozich & Langton, 2014).

“Restricting access to handguns might be expected to reduce the suicide rate in persons 15 to 24 years old.” (Sloan, 1990)

Rates of Sexual Assaults Based on Colorado, Mississippi, and Utah Data



DO MORE GUNS CAUSE LESS CRIME?

A common misconception surrounding this topic is that the presence of more guns leads to more safety and less crime. As is identified previously, this is not true regarding sexual violence, or self-inflicted violence, but what about general violence as a whole? Studies show that the common defense "more guns less crime" is false. A study compiled by Donohue showed that in 33 states that adopted concealed carry before 2007 saw that violence crime actually **INCREASED** between 13-15% 10 years after enacting the carry laws, thoroughly debunking the common defense of campus carry. (Donohue, 2019)

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

The best solution for this issue would be to simply repeal the campus carry laws that are being passed to allow some form of campus carry. Spreading information is a good way to start. Studies also suggest that increasing preventative resources, such as access to counseling and health services, to protect against suicide and sexual assault will be more effective than arming students. (Birnbaum, 2013)

Benefits

One of the main benefits will be decreased risk of suicide and decreased risk of sexual assault among college students, who are an extremely vulnerable population. College students will also feel more safe and comfortable, as research shows that a majority of students/staff do not wish for guns to be allowed on campus.

Costs

Push back would probably be substantial, as powerful guns' rights activist groups such as the NRA would be opposed. However, the evidence is there to explain and convince that the reasons for concealed carry on campus are not strong or empirically supported, while the reasons against concealed carry on campus are substantial and supported by many reliable studies.

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