

# IS AN ASSAULT RIFLE BAN THE ANSWER TO GUN PROBLEMS?

**NO!!**

**2ND AMENDMENT: "A WELL REGULATED MILITIA, BEING NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED"**



## THE PROBLEM

Since 2000, there have been at least 41 highly publicized shootings with a lone shooter that has killed at least four people (Whitaker)

## POLICY PROPOSALS

Many proposals today include an "assault rifle" or "assault weapon" bans and this is NOT the correct solution to the problem Here's why...

Media Definition: "An assault rifle is a rapid-fire, magazine-fed rifle designed for military use... allows the shooter to select between semi-automatic... fully automatic... or three-shot-burst modes" (Lord).

Fully Automatic and three round burst weapons are banned by federal law so this is incorrect.

By U.S. Army definition, a selective-fire rifle chambered for a cartridge of intermediate power. If applied to any semi-automatic firearm regardless of its cosmetic similarity to a true assault rifle, the term is incorrect.

## PROPOSAL PROBLEMS: MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

1: "Assault Rifle" is not defined correctly by the media and the media overuses the term. Most of the weapons they mention would not fall under the category (Severance)

2: "Assault Weapon" is a made up term. You can assault someone with your hands and that could be your "assault weapon"

3: AR-15 stands for Armalite Rifle Model 15, not "Assault Rifle"

4: The media portrays rifles as the most deadly guns when there are more deaths with shotguns, pistols, and other weapons (figure 1)

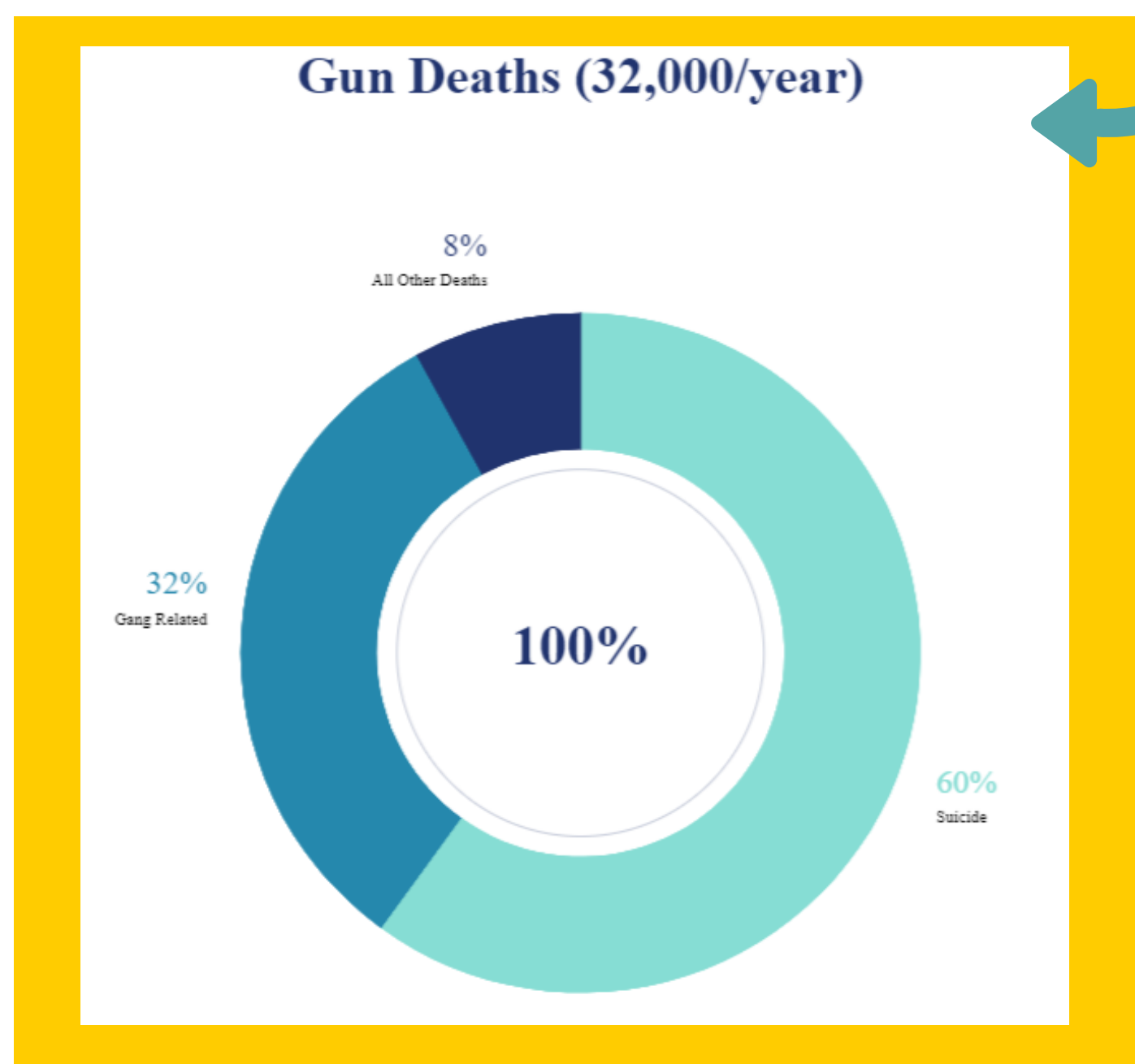
5: Most gun deaths are suicide and gang related, not just sporadic shootings (Hawkins)

Figure 1

Murder Victims by Weapon, 2010-2014					
Weapons	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,164</b>	<b>12,795</b>	<b>12,888</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>11,961</b>
Total firearms:	8,874	8,653	8,897	8,454	8,124
Handguns	6,115	6,251	6,404	5,782	5,562
Rifles	367	332	298	285	248
Shotguns	366	362	310	308	262
Firearms, type not stated	1,933	1,611	1,769	1,956	1,959
Knives or cutting instruments	1,732	1,716	1,604	1,490	1,567
Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	549	502	522	428	435
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) <sup>1</sup>	769	751	707	687	660
Strangulation	122	88	90	85	89
Asphyxiation	98	92	106	95	96
Other weapons or weapons not stated	872	858	802	850	830



- They are all semi-automatic (pull trigger once, one bullet comes out)
- The diameter of the 30-06 bullet is much larger than that of the AR-15 (higher caliber)
- The Glock holds 17 rounds of ammo
- The spread of shotguns makes it easier to hit a target



6: The scarier guns look, the deadlier they are

## CURRENT SOLUTION

Regulation of gun ownership:

Cannot have a gun if (RULES VARY SLIGHTLY BY STATE): ("Gun Laws")

- Convicted of a crime punishable by being in prison for more than one year
- A fugitive from; addicted to, or illegally use, any controlled substance
- Ruled mentally defective
- Committed to a mental institution;
- Illegal alien
- Dishonorable discharge
- Renounced U.S. citizenship
- Subject to a court restraining order
- Convicted of domestic violence in any court of a misdemeanor

Federal Law: Places restrictions on certain types of firearms (short barreled shotguns, machine guns) ("Gun Laws")



## WHY CITIZENS NEED SPORTING RIFLES

- It is their second amendment right
  - They should be able to arm themselves against the government
- Should be able to effectively counter criminal violence
- They are used for sport (hunting and competitions)

## DEFINING SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES

There is no way to distinguish between these types of rifles so before decisions are made one must:

- List of weapons by name and action
- Discriminate the weapons based on their mechanical capabilities
- Draw the line between the "good" and "bad" semi-automatic weapons (Zimring).

## EASY TO BUY A FIREARM?

In some states - state and federal background check, if clear you can walk out with a gun (Taylor)  
Some states have waiting periods before receiving gun (Taylor)  
33 states which private gun sellers do not do background checks and anyone can walk out with a gun (Taylor)

## IMPORTANT FACT (LEGAL GUNS ARE NOT THE PROBLEM)

An estimated 287,400 prisoners had possessed a firearm during their offense. Among these, more than half (56%) had either stolen it (6%), found it at the scene of the crime (7%), or obtained it off the street or from the underground market (43%). Most of the remainder (25%) had obtained it from a family member or friend, or as a gift. Seven percent had purchased it under their own name from a licensed firearm dealer (Mariel Alper and Lauren Glaze).

## SOLUTION

- Ensure all firearm sellers do extensive background checks
- Do not allow private sellers to be the exception to the rules and regulations (all 50 states should require background checks)
- Allow selling license to be revoked if rules are not followed
- States should report a person to the background check system if they become ineligible
- Have a test for a concealed carry license
- Ban body armor piercing ammo (special types of ammo not used for sport)

## OUR RIGHT AND OUR PROTECTION

Owning guns is an important right for American citizens. The most deadly firearms have already been banned by federal law, but remaining guns should be accessible to the right people. They are used for sport as well as for protection.

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