

STATE BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS AND RATES OF FIREARM HOMICIDE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Loopholes in federal and state law make it easy for dangerous people to get guns. But Everytown's research shows that common-sense public safety laws can help reduce gun violence against law enforcement and save lives. Simply put, background check laws make cops safer: Law enforcement officers are 48 percent less likely to be killed with handguns in states that require background checks for unlicensed, "private" handgun sales than in states that do not.

METHODOLOGY

Everytown compared the number of law enforcement officers killed with handguns that were not their own over a twelve-year period (2000-11) in states that did or did not require background checks for unlicensed, "private" handgun sales.

Data on deaths were obtained from the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed in Action database. The database includes detailed information on every duly sworn officer – including city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal officers – killed in the line of duty going back to 1980. To qualify, officers must have been working in an official capacity (on or off duty), had full arrest powers, ordinarily worn or carried a badge and a firearm, and been paid from governmental funds specifically appropriated for law enforcement officers.¹

Data on the population of law enforcement officers were obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports.² The population of law enforcement officers in the District of Columbia was not available, so the District was excluded from the analysis.

RESULTS

During the study period, 13 states required all gun buyers to undergo a background check before buying a handgun in an unlicensed sale, and 36 states did not.³ Between 2000-11, the FBI reported that 676 law enforcement officers were killed in action in these states, of whom 551 (82 percent) were killed with firearms, and 347 were killed with handguns that were not the officers' own. Adjusting for population, there were 48 percent fewer law enforcement officers killed with handguns that were not their own in states that require background checks for all handgun sales than in states that do not.

	Law enforcement officers (LEO) - average	LEO killed in action	LEO killed with firearm	LEO killed with handgun not officer's own	LEO killed with handgun not their own per 100,000 officers
Total	665,129	676	551	347	52.2
States that require a background check for private handgun sales	322,163	272	184	114	35.4
States that do not require a background check for private handgun sales	342,966	404	367	233	67.9
				Difference	-48%

^{1.} See http://l.usa.gov/1BpHxSL (last accessed November 13, 2014) for a detailed explanation of the criteria required.

^{2.} FBI, Crime in the United States, Table 77, available at: http://1.usa.gov/1CmPZhV

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN ACTION, 2000-2011

MARAMA			2000-2011					
MARCONA		REQUIRED FOR ALL HANDGUN	LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (LEO) - AVERAGE	LEO KILLED IN ACTION	LEO KILLED WITH FIREARM	LEO KILLED WITH HANDGUN NOT THEIR OWN	HANDGUN NOT THEIR OWN	
AREZONA NO 11,244 20 20 13 1107 AREANSAS NO LAMP R R R R R S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	ALABAMA	NO	10,229	19	18	10	97.8	
ARKANSAS NO S. 673 RESPONSE RESPO	ALASKA	NO	1,201	5	4	1	83.3	
CALIFORNIA OLICARDO NO 10,909 7 7 7 5 43,8 OLICARDO NO 00,0 OLICAMARE NO 02,242 7 11 11 00,0 00,0 OLICAMARE NO 10,0 42,844 36 24 27 11 11 44,6 4	ARIZONA	NO	11,744	20	20	13	110.7	
COLORADO	ARKANSAS	NO	5,499	8	8	5	90.9	
CONNECTICUT YES 8,098 1 1 0 0.0 OLLAWARE NO 2,242 2 1 1 1 44.6 ECRORIDA NO 42,284 36 34 22 55.5 GEORGIA NO 42,884 36 34 22 65.5 GEORGIA NO 22,228 77 27 21 94.5 CHANAII YFS 2,2870 2 7 7 21 94.5 LILMOIS YFS 36,297 23 22 17 46.8 LILMOIS YFS 36,297 23 22 17 46.8 LILMONA NO 10,00 15,00 10.0 10.0 10.0 KANABAS NO 6,887 7 7 6 87.3 COURSIANA NO 15,271 27 26 18 197.2 COURSIANA NO 12,20 0 0 0 </th <th>CALIFORNIA</th> <th>YES</th> <th>75,670</th> <th>55</th> <th>50</th> <th>28</th> <th>37.0</th>	CALIFORNIA	YES	75,670	55	50	28	37.0	
DELAWARE	COLORADO	NO	10,909	7	7	5	45.8	
FLORIDA	CONNECTICUT	YES	8,096	1	1	0	0.0	
SEORGIA NO 22,228 27 27 21 94,5	DELAWARE	NO	2,242	2	1	1	44.6	
MANAII	FLORIDA	NO	42,844	36	34	28	65.4	
DANO	GEORGIA	NO	22,228	27	27	21	94.5	
LLINOIS	HAWAII	YES	2,870	2	2	2	69.7	
INDIANA	IDAHO	NO	2,553	3	3	2	78.3	
COMA	ILLINOIS	YES	36,297	23	22	17	46.8	
KANSAS	INDIANA	NO	10,606	15	15	10	94.3	
KENTUCKY	IOWA	YES	5,096	1	1	0	0.0	
LOUISIANA	KANSAS	NO	6,887	7	7	6	87.1	
MAINE NO 2,220 0 0 0 0.0 MASYLAND YES 15,103 14 12 9 59,6 MASSACHUSETTS YES 15,103 14 12 9 59,6 MASSACHUSETTS YES 16,110 2 2 2 12.4 MICHIGAN YES 19,737 23 20 11 55,7 MINNESOTA NO 8,424 7 6 5 59,4 MISSISIPPI NO 5,201 15 10 4 76,9 MONTANA NO 1,662 2 2 2 0 0.0 NEBRASKA YES 3,418 1 1 1 1 2.29,3 NEVADA NO 5,226 3 3 0 0.0 0.0 NEW JERSEY YES 3,925 8 6 4 12.9 1.29 NEW MEXICO NO 3,878 7	KENTUCKY	NO	7,790	8	6	1	12.8	
MARYLAND YES 15,103 14 12 9 59,6 MASSACHUSETTS YES 16,110 2 2 2 2 12,4 MICHIGAN YES 19,737 23 20 11 55,7 MINNESOTA NO 8,424 7 6 5 99,4 MINSSISSIPPI NO 5,201 15 10 4 76,9 MONTANA NO 1,662 2 2 2 0 0.0 NEWADA NO 5,226 3 3 0 0.0 NEWADA NO 5,226 3 3 0 0.0 NEW HAMPSHIRE NO 2,285 2 2 2 2 2 8.75 NEW JERSEY YES 30,925 8 6 4 12.9 19.6 NEW YORK YES 21,160 23 21 11 12.9 19.6 NOSTH CAROLINA YES </th <th>LOUISIANA</th> <th>NO</th> <th>15,371</th> <th>27</th> <th>26</th> <th>18</th> <th>117.1</th>	LOUISIANA	NO	15,371	27	26	18	117.1	
MASSACHUSETTS YES 16,110 2 2 2 12.4 MICHIGAN YES 19,737 23 20 11 55,7 MINNESOTA NO 8,424 7 6 5 59,4 MISSISSIPPI NO 5,201 115 10 4 76,9 MONTANA NO 1,662 2 2 2 0 0 MERASKA YES 3,418 1 1 1 1 29,3 NEW DADA NO 5,226 3 3 0 0 0 NEW HAMPSHIRE NO 2,285 2 2 2 2 2 87,5 NEW JERSEY YES 30,925 8 6 4 12,9 1 1 1 12,9 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 6 6 150,8 1 1 1 1 1 1 <t< th=""><th>MAINE</th><th>NO</th><th>2,220</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>0</th><th>0.0</th></t<>	MAINE	NO	2,220	0	0	0	0.0	
MICHIGAN YES 19,737 23 20 11 55,7 MINNESOTA NO 8,424 7 6 5 59,4 MISSISIPIP NO 5,201 15 10 4 76,9 MONTAINA NO 1,662 2 2 2 0 0.0 MEBRASKA YES 3,418 1 1 1 1 29,3 NEVADA NO 5,226 3 3 0 0.0 0.0 NEW JERSEY YES 30,925 8 6 4 12.9 NEW MEXICO NO 3,978 7 6 6 6 150,8 NEW YORK YES 61,343 90 18 12 19,6 NORTH CAROLINA YES 21,160 23 21 11 52.0 NORTH DAKOTA NO 1,196 1 1 1 1 83.6 OHIO NO 21,873	MARYLAND	YES	15,103	14	12	9	59.6	
MINNESOTA	MASSACHUSETTS	YES	16,110	2	2	2	12.4	
MISSISSIPP NO	MICHIGAN	YES	19,737	23	20	11	55.7	
MONTANA	MINNESOTA	NO	8,424	7	6	5	59.4	
NEBRASKA YES 3,418	MISSISSIPPI	NO	5,201	15	10	4	76.9	
NEVADA NO 5,226 3 3 0 0.0 NEW HAMPSHIRE NO 2,285 2 2 2 2 87.5 NEW JERSEY YES 30,925 8 6 4 12,9 NEW WEXICO NO 3,978 7 6 6 6 150.8 NEW YORK YES 61,343 90 18 12 19.6 NORTH CAROLINA YES 21,160 23 21 11 52.0 NORTH DAKOTA NO 1,196 1 1 1 1 83.6 OHIO NO 21,873 19 17 15 68.6 66.6 OKLAHOMA NO 7,297 5 4 1 13.7 OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 <	MONTANA	NO	1,662	2	2	0	0.0	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NEBRASKA	YES	3,418	1	1	1	29.3	
NEW JERSEY YES 30,925 8	NEVADA	NO	5,226	3	3	0	0.0	
NEW MEXICO NO 3,978 7 6 6 150.8 NEW YORK YES 61,343 90 18 12 19.6 NORTH CAROLINA YES 21,160 23 21 11 52.0 NORTH DAKOTA NO 1,196 1 1 1 1 1 83.6 OHIO NO 21,873 19 17 15 68.6 66.6 OKLAHOMA NO 7,297 5 4 1 13.7 13.7 OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 17.9 17.4 17.9 17.4 17.4 17.9 18.0 17.9 17.4 17.4 17.4 17.4 17.9 17.4	NEW HAMPSHIRE	NO	2,285	2	2	2	87.5	
NEW YORK YES 61,343 90 18 12 19,6 NORTH CAROLINA YES 21,160 23 21 11 52.0 NORTH DAKOTA NO 1,196 1 1 1 1 83.6 OHIO NO 21,873 19 17 15 68.6 OKLAHOMA NO 7,297 5 4 1 13.7 OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26	NEW JERSEY	YES	30,925	8	6	4	12.9	
NORTH CAROLINA YES 21,160 23 21 11 52.0 NORTH DAKOTA NO 1,196 1 1 1 1 1 83.6 OHIO NO 21,873 19 17 15 68.6 OKLAHOMA NO 7,297 5 4 1 13.7 OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 <td< th=""><th>NEW MEXICO</th><th>NO</th><th>3,978</th><th>7</th><th>6</th><th>6</th><th>150.8</th></td<>	NEW MEXICO	NO	3,978	7	6	6	150.8	
NORTH DAKOTA NO 1,196 1 1 1 1 83.6 OHIO NO 21,873 19 17 15 68.6 OKLAHOMA NO 7,297 5 4 1 13.7 OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 10,49 0 0 0 0	NEW YORK	YES	61,343	90	18	12	19.6	
OHIO NO 21,873 19 17 15 68.6 OKLAHOMA NO 7,297 5 4 1 13.7 OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 10,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	NORTH CAROLINA	YES	21,160	23	21	11	52.0	
OKLAHOMA NO 7,297 5 4 1 13.7 OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4 <th>NORTH DAKOTA</th> <th>NO</th> <th>1,196</th> <th>1</th> <th>1</th> <th>1</th> <th>83.6</th>	NORTH DAKOTA	NO	1,196	1	1	1	83.6	
OREGON NO 5,595 5 3 1 17.9 PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	оніо	NO	21,873	19	17	15	68.6	
PENNSYLVANIA YES 23,820 28 27 17 71.4 RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	OKLAHOMA	NO	7,297	5	4	1	13.7	
RHODE ISLAND YES 2,517 1 1 0 0.0 SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	OREGON	NO	5,595	5	3	1	17.9	
SOUTH CAROLINA NO 10,215 20 19 8 78.3 SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	PENNSYLVANIA	YES	23,820	28	27	17	71.4	
SOUTH DAKOTA NO 1,365 3 3 2 146.5 TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	RHODE ISLAND	YES	2,517	1	1	0	0.0	
TENNESSEE NO 15,306 20 17 11 71.9 TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	SOUTH CAROLINA	NO	10,215	20	19	8	78.3	
TEXAS NO 50,453 58 50 26 51.5 UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	SOUTH DAKOTA	NO	1,365	3	3	2	146.5	
UTAH NO 4,665 5 5 2 42.9 VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	TENNESSEE	NO	15,306	20	17	11	71.9	
VERMONT NO 1,049 0 0 0 0.0 VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	TEXAS	NO	50,453	58	50	26	51.5	
VIRGINIA NO 17,448 22 20 15 86.0 WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	UТАН	NO	4,665	5	5	2	42.9	
WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	VERMONT	NO	1,049	0	0	0	0.0	
WASHINGTON NO 10,133 15 14 8 79.0 WEST VIRGINIA NO 3,258 3 3 2 61.4	VIRGINIA	NO		22	20	15	86.0	
	WASHINGTON	NO	10,133	15	14	8	79.0	
	WEST VIRGINIA	NO	3,258	3	3	2	61.4	
	WISCONSIN	NO	12,677	8	6	3	23.7	
WYOMING NO 1,339 0 0 0 0.0								