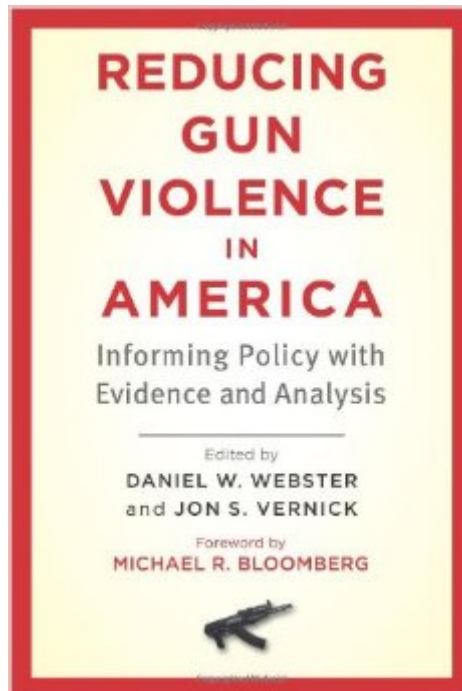


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# Reducing Gun Violence In America: Informing Policy With Evidence And Analysis



## Synopsis

The staggering toll of gun violence—which claims 31,000 U.S. lives each year—is an urgent public health issue that demands an effective evidence-based policy response. The Johns Hopkins University convened more than 20 of the world’s leading experts on gun violence and policy to summarize relevant research and recommend policies that are both constitutional and have broad public support. Collected for the first time in one volume, this reliable, empirical research and legal analysis will help lawmakers, opinion leaders, and concerned citizens identify policy changes to address mass shootings, along with the less-publicized gun violence that takes an average of 80 lives every day. Selected recommendations include:

- Background checks: Establish a universal background check system for all persons purchasing a firearm from any seller.
- High-risk individuals: Expand the set of conditions that disqualify an individual from legally purchasing a firearm.
- Mental health: Focus federal restrictions on gun purchases by persons with serious mental illness on the dangerousness of the individual.
- Trafficking and dealer licensing: Appoint a permanent director to ATF and provide the agency with the authority to develop a range of sanctions for gun dealers who violate gun sales or other laws.
- Personalized guns: Provide financial incentives to states to mandate childproof or personalized guns.
- Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines: Ban the future sale of assault weapons and the future sale and possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines.
- Research funds: Provide adequate federal funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and National Institute of Justice for research into the causes and solutions of gun violence.

The book includes an analysis of the constitutionality of many recommended policies and data from a national public opinion poll that reflects support among the majority of Americans—including gun owners—for stronger gun policies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A very thin soup that does not deliver on the billing. I'm in favor of gun control by the way -- not NRA nutty. There really just isn't that much here -- more a pamphlet than a book. Very disappointed

There are no words for how amazing this book is. It is thoughtful, articulate, and features a variety of authors that give it consistently fresh perspective. It is not bitter but instead is filled with sound policy analysis and suggestions

Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis Edited by Daniel W. Webster and Jon S. Vernick "Reducing Gun Violence in America Guns" is a comprehensive collection of rigorous essays/studies with the purpose of providing evidence-based research on how to reduce gun violence in America. This book takes an impassive approach to the very incendiary topical issue of violence and gun policy. Driven by the massacre of Newtown, the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research organized a gun-debate summit and edited this timely book. This excellent reference quality book is 320 pages long and is composed of nineteen chapters and broken out into the following six parts: 1. Gun Policy Lessons from the United States; Keeping Guns from High-Risk Individuals, 2. Making Gun Laws Enforceable, 3. Gun Policy Lessons from the United States; High-Risk Guns, 4. International Case Studies, 5. Second Amendment, and 6. Public Opinion on Gun Policy. Positives: 1. A much needed evidence-based book on such an incendiary timely topic. 2. An excellent forward by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. Does a great job of summarizing seven pragmatic measures to reduce gun violence; three at the legislative level and four at the executive level. 3. The purpose of this book is to share research from more than twenty of the world's top gun-policy experts that would inform important policy. Mission accomplished. 4. This book takes an impassive, scientific approach. The authors do a good job of letting the reader know the limitations of our knowledge. 5. Provides a number of charts to back research. Many of interesting facts and tidbits interspersed throughout the book. 6. Countering misconceptions about gun policy. 7. Gun policies that actually work. A lot of policies involving regulations and oversight on gun dealers. The book also discusses initiatives with limited impact (the Brady Act) but most

importantly the why.<sup>8</sup> The extent of violence in America: homicides, suicides and even unintentional deaths and how it relates to gun ownership. "What distinguishes children in the United States from children in the rest of the developed world is the simple, devastating fact that they die--mostly by firearms--at far higher rates".<sup>9</sup> Mental illness research. "Bipolar disorder was positively associated with violent crime compared with depression. Schizophrenia was negatively associated with violent crime compared with depression". Depression and how it relates to suicide.<sup>10</sup> Domestic violence. "For at least the past twenty-five years, more intimate partner homicides (IPHs) have been committed with guns than with all other weapons combined. Furthermore, women are more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than by any other offender group". A solid chapter.<sup>11</sup> Effectiveness of denying firearms. "Federal and state governments should broaden their criteria for denial of firearm purchase and possession to include persons convicted of violent misdemeanors". Background checks and preventing the diversion of guns to criminals. Policies that work, like the ones in New York.<sup>12</sup> The serious problem of preventing illegal gun transfers. Six policy and legislative recommendations to improve the capacity of the U.S. Dept. of Justice to enforce federal laws against gun traffickers.<sup>13</sup> The effectiveness of past ban on assault weapons and the loopholes, oh the ever present loopholes. "Relatively cosmetic changes, such as removing a flash hider or bayonet mount, were thus sufficient to transform a banned weapon into a legal substitute".<sup>14</sup> The need for personalized guns. "To require all guns to be personalized does not interfere with Second Amendment rights--one can still keep and bear arms, but the arms would be designed in such a manner as to reduce the likelihood of being involved in mayhem".<sup>15</sup> The book catches its much needed second breath with the introduction of international case studies of responses to gun violence: Great Britain, Australia and Brazil. The Big Melt...destroying a third of its privately owned guns. "The most comprehensive impact study of the Australian interventions found that "the buyback led to a drop in the firearm suicide rates of almost 80%, with no significant effect on non-firearm death rates".<sup>16</sup> Thought provoking..." A firearm is a good instrument for attack, but not for defense. The attacker uses the element of surprise and thus controls the circumstances of the attack".<sup>17</sup> A look into the second amendment. Recent court cases and their impact. "Not all regulations restricting guns burden the right to keep and bear arms, and not all regulations that do burden the right are unconstitutional".<sup>18</sup> What the data says about public opinion.<sup>19</sup> An excellent summary chapter on the consensus for reforms to federal gun policies.<sup>20</sup> Great notes and biographies of contributors. Links worked great!

Negatives:<sup>1</sup> The book is quite dry and repetitive.<sup>2</sup> Statistical analysis even at its most basic will go over the heads of most laypeople.<sup>3</sup> No consideration whatsoever on the decriminalization/legalization of drugs and how it

relates to gun violence. Missed opportunity.<sup>4</sup> The American "culture of violence" was never addressed. Video games, violent movies...for the record, when you have many countries playing the same violent games without any causal correlation to gun violence well the point is mute as far as I'm concerned but would have liked a chapter on it for reference sake.<sup>5</sup> An appendix of most common weapons in the U.S. with specs would have added value.<sup>6</sup> The overall global violence is trending downward, please refer to Steven Pinker's excellent book, "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined". In summary, this is a much needed and timely book on the hot-button issue of gun control. It is an excellent timely reference that takes the emotions out of the debate and provides readers with scholarly research on the topic. The book addresses to satisfaction the role of guns in violence and a number of measures that can be taken to reduce it. My biggest complaint is that the book is quite dry and repetitive. The statistical analysis even at its most basic level will go over the heads of most laypeople. All that being said, this is a very solid reference book; reducing gun violence in America is a very complex issue that involves many overlapping variables. I thank the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research for providing the public a much needed tool. I highly recommend it. Further recommendations: "Guns" by Stephen King, and "Living with Guns: A Liberal's Case for the Second Amendment" by Craig Whitney.

There aren't many seriously academic books about gun policy out there. This is one of them. Unfortunately, the gun lobby has heavily restricted gun research over the past few decades, so a lot of research is incomplete or even nonexistent. But this is what exists, and a lot of the evidence seems damning of the NRA's positions.

This is not the usual collection of unsourced claims about gun violence in America. Instead, the Baltimore Gun Summit at Johns Hopkins University brought together many of the world's most knowledgeable gun violence prevention experts to present today's most topical summary of knowledge -- solid, evidence-based findings which could slow the carnage of armed violence in the United States. For the next several years, this is likely to remain the most useful compendium of constructive ideas and recommendations in its field.

This work is rooted in the diseased spirit communism. Unfortunately, in our age of entitlement the herd mentality eats this up. This disease is nothing new, it has been around for millennia. This spirit of control is what spawned the American revolution. Yet here it is again, and once again the empty headed fools of society will embrace the disease.

Required reading with massive amount of important, reliable information on the issue. However, many of the contributions were written by academics for academics employing methods of statistical analysis too technical for a nonspecialist reader to follow.

This collection of essays, about a very emotional and personal issue in America, is a gem. It cuts through the cliches and generalizations about gun violence and gun ownership with national and international evidence and tackles the numerous issues related to both in a specified and clear manner. It's amazing how stubborn we can be, allowing our emotions to "rationalize" so-called truths without any evidence or coherency. This book shows how inane and false much dialogue (if you can call it that) is about guns. It does not promote anything like a knee-jerk reaction that demands complete banning of guns, but also shows how ridiculous it is that we allow them to be handed out like candy on Halloween (my words). There are many pieces of evidence that show we could very well create respectable, but responsible gun laws that insure a strict licence of gun-ownership, keeping them away from individuals who will more or less likely use them to do harm. The problem is, Americans, both layman and political representatives, have to read this book first. It is both a) Very rare to see any discussion/debate backed up by detailed reasoning expressing the gray areas of such a complicated subject, and b) expressing the honest desire to do so. This book is not easy. It is scholarly and technical. But this kind of research, and our ability to read and understand it, is necessary for progress to occur. This is the type of book that makes us better as individuals and as a community. We just have to live up to its demands for the the search for truth. This 'searching' is something that we find together and that we never assume ownership.

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