

Strong Gun Laws Save Lives

1. States with strong gun laws have lower rates of gun deaths.

Of the 10 states with the strongest gun laws, seven have the lowest rates of gun deaths. All seven have background checks for all gun purchases.¹

Connecticut has the third strongest gun laws in the nation and the fifth lowest rate of gun deaths.

2. Background checks keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Since taking effect in 1994, Brady background checks have stopped more than 3 million gun sales to prohibited purchasers including felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous individuals.²

Connecticut requires background checks for all gun purchases.

3. States with weak concealed carry permit requirements have higher rates of violent crime.

States that loosened restrictions on concealed carry permits, so-called “right to carry” (RTC) states, saw violent crime rates increase each additional year RTC laws were in place. According to a recent academic study, after controlling for changes in incarceration rates and the number of police per capita, RTC laws were associated with a 10% higher murder rate 10 years following the adoption of RTC laws.³

Connecticut is one of only eight “may issue” states where local law enforcement has the discretion to deny permits to carry in public. Connecticut requires a background check and approved training course to be eligible for a carry permit.

4. Universal background checks reduce domestic violence homicides.

In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 38 percent fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners.⁴

Connecticut is one of 19 states with universal background checks.

5. Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) lower gun suicides.

For every 10 to 20 guns removed from individuals at imminent risk of self-harm, one suicide is prevented.⁵

Connecticut’s “risk warrant” law was the first ERPO in the nation, passed in 1999.

¹ Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, 2016 Gun Law State [Scorecard](#).

² Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, [Background Checks](#)

³ Concealed Carry of Firearms: Facts vs. Fiction, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Nov 2017

⁴ Gun Laws and Violence Against Women, Mayors Against Illegal Guns using data from U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2010

⁵ Implementation And Effectiveness Of Connecticut’s Risk-Based Gun Removal Law: Does It Prevent Suicides?, Swanson, et al, 2017