

Gun Control in the United States

Description of the Laws Included in this Study (numbers in parentheses are points allocated)

REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS

Central collection of data allowing the owner of a specific firearm to be identified.

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:

- Registration system statewide (+5)
- Informal registration (+2)
- Collection of sales or permit data (+1)
- NS No registration (0)

For Handguns:

- Registration system statewide (+7)
- Informal registration (+3)
- Collection of sales or permit data (+2)
- NS No registration (0)

PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)

Sales made by federal firearms licensee.

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:

- Discretionary system for each purchase (+2)
- "Shall-issue" system (+1)
- NS No permit required (0)
- Not Applicable

For Handguns:

- Discretionary system for each purchase (+3)
- "Shall-issue" system (+2)
- NS No permit required (0)

PERMIT TO PURCHASE (PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS)

All sales between individuals, transfer among family members, and many of the transactions at gun shows fall into this category.

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:

- Discretionary system for each purchase (+2)
- "Shall-issue" system (+1)
- NS No permit required (0)
- Not Applicable

For Handguns:

- Discretionary system for each purchase (+4)
- "Shall-issue" system (+2)
- NS No permit required (0)

SAFETY TRAINING

Instruction required in safe handling of guns before purchase is allowed.

- Proof of safety training required (+2)
- NS No safety training required (0)

BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS

Military-style weapons with high-speed, high-volume firing capacity

- Assault weapon ban (+6)
- Assault pistol ban (+3)
- NS No Assault weapon ban (0)

BAN ON "JUNK GUNS"

Small, cheap and poorly made handguns, also known as "Saturday night specials."

- "Junk gun" ban (+6)
- NS No "Junk gun" ban (0)

BACKGROUND CHECK IN DEALER SALES

Sales made by federal firearms licensees.

For Rifles & Shotguns:

- NICS + State background checks (+1)
- NS National Instant Check System Only (0)

For Handguns:

- NICS + State background checks (+2)
- NS National Instant Check System Only (0)

BACKGROUND CHECK IN PRIVATE SALES

Sales between individuals, transfer among family members, and many of the transactions at gun shows fall into this category.

For Rifles & Shotguns:

- NICS + state background checks (+2)
- NICS only (+1)
- NS Background check required but not enforceable (0)
- NS No background check required (0)

For Handguns:

- NICS + state background checks (+3)
- NICS only (+2)
- Background check required but not enforceable (+1)
- NS No background check required (0)

	MA	HI	CA	CT	MD	IL	NJ	NY	IA	NC	RI	SC	MN	MI	MO	WA	FL	NE	VA	CO	OH	WI	DE	PA	NM	
REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS																										
ASSAULT WEAPONS																										
REGISTRATION	●	●	●	●	●		●										○									
PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)	●	●	●	●																						
PERMIT TO PURCHASE (PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS)	●	●	●	●				●																		
RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS																										
REGISTRATION	●	●		○																						
PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)	○	○						○																		
PERMIT TO PURCHASE (PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS)	○	○						○																		
HANDGUNS																										
REGISTRATION	●	●	○	○	●		○			○	○	○	○	○	○	○										
PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)	●	●	○	○	○		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○			○							
PERMIT TO PURCHASE (PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS)	○	○		○			○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○			○							
SAFETY TRAINING																										
SAFETY TRAINING PRIOR TO PURCHASE	●	●									●			●												
REGULATION OF FIREARM SALES																										
BANNED WEAPONS																										
ASSAULT WEAPON BAN		○	●	●	○																					
"JUNK GUN" BAN	●	●	●	●	●	●						●	●													
RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS																										
BACKGROUND CHECK IN DEALER SALES		●	●	●		●	●										●		●	●				●		
BACKGROUND CHECK IN PRIVATE SALES	○	●	●	●		○	●																			
MINIMUM AGE FOR PRIVATE PURCHASE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WAITING PERIOD	●	●	●	○		○					●															
HANDGUNS																										
BACKGROUND CHECK IN DEALER SALES		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
BACKGROUND CHECK IN PRIVATE SALES	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MINIMUM AGE FOR PRIVATE PURCHASE	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WAITING PERIOD	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
ONE-GUN-A-MONTH LAW			●		●							●							●							
SAFE STORAGE & ACCESSIBILITY																										
SAFE STORAGE REQUIREMENT	●	○	○	○																						
CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION LAW	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●					●		●			●	●		
OWNER LICENSING																										
ASSAULT WEAPONS																										
OWNER LICENSING	●		●			●	○																			
RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS																										
OWNER LICENSING	●					●	○																			
MINIMUM AGE FOR POSSESSION	○	○			○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
HANDGUNS																										
OWNER LICENSING	●			●		●	○																			
MINIMUM AGE FOR POSSESSION	●	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LITIGATION & PREEMPTION																										
LITIGATION BAN	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PREEMPTION LAW	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

MINIMUM AGE FOR PRIVATE PURCHASE

For dealer sales, the federal minimum age is 21 for handguns and 18 for long guns. States set their own age limits for private sales.

For Rifles & Shotguns:

- Minimum age 21 (+2)
- ① Minimum age 18 or higher (0)
- Minimum age under 18(-1)
- NS No minimum age (-1)

For Handguns:

- Minimum age 21 (+3)
- Minimum age 18 to 20 (0)
- NS Minimum age under 18(-1)

WAITING PERIOD

Some states have a mandatory waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a gun.

For Rifles & Shotguns:

- More than 72 hours (+5)
- ① 25 to 72 hours (+3)
- ① Up to 24 hours (+2)
- On first purchase only (+1)
- NS No waiting period (0)

For Handguns:

- More than 72 hours (+6)
- ① 25 to 72 hours (+4)
- Up to 24 hours (+3)
- NS No waiting period (0)

ONE-GUN-A-MONTH LAW

An anti-trafficking measure.

- One-gun-a-month law (+7)
- NS No one-gun-a-month law (0)

SAFE STORAGE LAW

Requires guns to be secured with a locking device or stored in a locked box or cabinet.

- Broad safe storage requirements (+4)
- Safe storage requirements for some firearms or limited situations (+3)
- NS No safe storage requirements (0)

CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION

Criminal penalties for parents whose gun is used by a child to cause death or injury.

- CAP law (+2)
- NS No CAP law (0)

OWNER LICENSING

Includes screening to ensure applicant meets minimum standards.

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:

- Renewable license system (+3)
- ① Discretionary system (+2)
- "Shall issue" system (+1)
- NS No owner licensing (0)

For Handguns:

- Renewable license system (+6)
- ① Discretionary system (+5)
- "Shall issue" system (+3)
- NS No owner licensing (0)

MINIMUM AGE FOR FIREARM POSSESSION

Federal law prohibits possession of a handgun by anyone under 18, but some states have lower age limits. There is no federal minimum age for rifles & shotguns.

For Rifles & Shotguns:

- Minimum age 21 (+2)
- ① Minimum age 18 or higher (+1)
- Minimum age under 18(0)
- NS No minimum age (-1)

For Handguns:

- Minimum age 21(+3)
- ① Minimum age 18 or higher (0)
- Minimum age under 18(-1)
- NS No minimum age (-2)

LITIGATION BAN

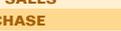
Protects firearm industry from lawsuits for negligent design or distribution.

- No bar to litigation (0)
- NS Bar on litigation against the gun industry by state or local governments, and/or individuals (-1)

PREEMPTION LAW

Restricts municipalities from enacting local gun laws.

- No state preemption (0)
- Partial state preemption (-3)
- NS Very broad or absolute state preemption (-4)

REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS																											
OR	TN	NV	NH	UT	AZ	IN	KS	MS	AL	ID	SD	WV	OK	WY	AR	GA	ND	VT	KY	MT	TX	AK	LA	ME	ASSAULT WEAPONS REGISTRATION		
																									PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)		
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