Gun Control in the United States
A Comparative Survey of State Firearm Laws

This project brings clarity to a controversial topic by comparing the gun laws systematically, scoring them on 30 criteria. (See side 2.)

If a state received full points on all criteria, it would score a total of 100 points. In fact, the states’ total scores ranged from 76 to 10.

A negative score indicates a state that has very limited gun control laws of its own, and in fact undermines the minimum standards in federal law.

Geographical Comparison
This map shows the geographic distribution of the scores from the bar chart below. This map also shows the closest distance between a major city in a higher ranking state and a neighboring low ranking state. Close proximity to low ranking states undermines stricter laws.

- **Highest Ranking States**
  - BALTIMORE 79 miles from WEST VIRGINIA
  - BOSTON 59 miles from MAINE
  - CHICAGO 29 miles from INDIANA
  - LOS ANGELES 284 miles from ARIZONA
  - NEW YORK 192 miles from VERMONT

- **High Ranking States**
- **Middle Ranking States**
- **Low Ranking States**
- **Lowest Ranking States**

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