


# 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 “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 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)

**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)

	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
 <b>REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS</b>																									
 <b>ASSAULT WEAPONS</b>																									
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	●	●	●	●	●		●																		
<b>PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)</b>	●	●	●	●									○												
<b>PERMIT TO PURCHASE (PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS)</b>	●	●	●	●			●																		
 <b>RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS</b>																									
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	●	●		○																					
<b>PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)</b>	○	○						○																	
<b>PERMIT TO PURCHASE (PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS)</b>	○	○						○																	
 <b>HANDGUNS</b>																									
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	●	●	●	○	●		○	●		○		○	○	●	○										
<b>PERMIT TO PURCHASE (DEALER SALES)</b>	○	●		○			○	●	○	●			○	○	○			○							
<b>PERMIT TO PURCHASE (PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS)</b>	○	●		○			○	●	○	●				●	○			○							
 <b>SAFETY TRAINING</b>																									
<b>SAFETY TRAINING PRIOR TO PURCHASE</b>	●	●									●			●											
 <b>REGULATION OF FIREARM SALES</b>																									
 <b>BANNED WEAPONS</b>																									
<b>ASSAULT WEAPON BAN</b>		○	●	●	○																				
<b>“JUNK GUN” BAN</b>	●	●	●		●	●						●	●												
 <b>RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS</b>																									
<b>BACKGROUND CHECK IN DEALER SALES</b>		●	●	●		●	●										●		●	●				●	
<b>BACKGROUND CHECK IN PRIVATE SALES</b>	○	●	●	●		○	●										●		●	●				●	
<b>MINIMUM AGE FOR PRIVATE PURCHASE</b>	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<b>WAITING PERIOD</b>	●	●	●	○		○					●														
 <b>HANDGUNS</b>																									
<b>BACKGROUND CHECK IN DEALER SALES</b>		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
<b>BACKGROUND CHECK IN PRIVATE SALES</b>	○	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	○		○		○	○	○	○	○	○		○	○	○	○
<b>MINIMUM AGE FOR PRIVATE PURCHASE</b>	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<b>WAITING PERIOD</b>	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<b>ONE-GUN-A-MONTH LAW</b>			●		●							●						●							
 <b>SAFE STORAGE &amp; ACCESSIBILITY</b>																									
<b>SAFE STORAGE REQUIREMENT</b>	●	○	○	○																					
<b>CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION LAW</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●				●		●			●	●		
 <b>OWNER LICENSING</b>																									
 <b>ASSAULT WEAPONS</b>																									
<b>OWNER LICENSING</b>	●		●			●	○																		
 <b>RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS</b>																									
<b>OWNER LICENSING</b>	●					●	○																		
<b>MINIMUM AGE FOR POSSESSION</b>	○	○			○		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
 <b>HANDGUNS</b>																									
<b>OWNER LICENSING</b>	●			●		●	○																		
<b>MINIMUM AGE FOR POSSESSION</b>	●	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
 <b>LITIGATION &amp; PREEMPTION</b>																									
<b>LITIGATION BAN</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>PREEMPTION LAW</b>	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○		○										●	●	●	●	●	●
	MASSACHUSETTS	HAWAII	CALIFORNIA	CONNECTICUT	MARYLAND	ILLINOIS	NEW JERSEY	NEW YORK	IOWA	NORTH CAROLINA	RHODE ISLAND	SOUTH CAROLINA	MINNESOTA	MICHIGAN	MISSOURI	WASHINGTON	FLORIDA	NEBRASKA	VIRGINIA	COLORADO	OHIO	WISCONSIN	DELAWARE	PENNSYLVANIA	NEW MEXICO

