### 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)
  - 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 (+4)
  - 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.

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:
- 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.

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:
- Assault weapon ban (+6)
  - NS No Assault weapon ban (0)

**BACKGROUND CHECK IN DEALER SALES**
- Sales made by federal firearms licensees.

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:
- NICS + State background checks (+1)
  - NS National Instant Check System Only (0)

**SAFE ACCESSIBILITY**
- Small, cheap, and poorly made handguns, also known as “Saturday night specials.”

For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:
- “Junk gun” ban (+6)
  - NS No “Junk gun” ban (0)

**قهاحية عربية**
- Background check required but not enforceable (+1)
  - NS No background check required (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)
  - NS Only (1)

**SAFE ACCESSIBILITY**
- Background check required but not enforceable (+1)
  - NS No background check required (0)

**BACKGROUND CHECK IN PRIVATE SALES**
- Sales made by federal firearms licensees.

For Rifles & Shotguns:
- NICS + state background checks (+3)
  - NS Only (+2)

**SAFE ACCESSIBILITY**
- Background check required but not enforceable (+1)
  - NS No background check required (0)

**SAFE ACCESSIBILITY**
- Small, cheap, and poorly made handguns, also known as “Saturday night specials.”

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- Background check required but not enforceable (+1)
  - NS No background check required (0)

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- Sales made by federal firearms licensees.

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  - NS Only (+2)

**SAFE ACCESSIBILITY**
- Background check required but not enforceable (+1)
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### A Comparative Survey of State Firearm Laws

#### NATIONAL LAWS

- 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.

#### STATE LAWS

### MINIMUM AGE FOR FIREARM POSSESSION

- **For Handguns:**
  - Minimum age is 21 for handguns.
  - For dealer sales, the federal minimum age is 21; for private sales, the federal minimum age is 18.
  - Some states have a mandatory waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a gun.

- **For Rifles & Shotguns:**
  - Minimum age 18 or higher.
  - Minimum age under 18.
  - No minimum age.

### SAFE STORAGE LAW

- **For Assault Weapons and Rifles & Shotguns:**
  - Renewal license system.
  - Broad safe storage requirements.
  - Safe storage requirements for some firearms or limited situations.
  - No safe storage requirements.

### OWNER LICENSING

- **For Handguns:**
  - Criminal penalties for parents whose gun is used by a child to cause death or injury.
  - Requires guns to be secured with a locking device or stored in a locked box or cabinet.

### REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS

- **Background Check in Private Sales**
  - Requirements.
  - No registration.

### SAFETY TRAINING PRIOR TO PURCHASE

- **Safety Training**
  - No safety training.

### BANNED WEAPONS

- **For Handguns:**
  - No minimum age.
  - Minimum age 18.

### SAFE STORAGE & ACCESSIBILITY

- **Child Access Prevention**
  - More than 72 hours.
  - Up to 24 hours.
  - No waiting period.

### OWNER LICENSING

- **For Handguns:**
  - CAP law.
  - No CAP law.

### REGULATION OF FIREARM SALES

- **Registration:**
  - No registration.

### LITIGATION & PREEMPTION

- **Litigation Ban:**
  - Protects firearm industry from lawsuits for negligent design or distribution.

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