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## CASE I

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### SELF DEFENSE IN THE US

Every 1.3 minutes an American citizen uses a firearm in self-defense against a criminal.

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Source: "Armed Resistance to Crime: The Prevalance and Nature of Self-Defense with a Gun," by Gary Kleck and Marc Gertz, in *The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, Northwestern University School of Law, Volume 86, Number 1, Fall, 1995

#### Criminal Attacks Stopped By Guns This Year:

Among 15.7% of self-defenders interviewed nationwide during The National Self-Defense Survey conducted by Florida State University criminologists in 1994, the defender believed that someone "almost certainly" would have died had the gun not been used for protection -- a life saved by a privately owned gun about once every 1.3 minutes. (In another 14.2% cases, the defender believed someone "probably" would have died if the gun hadn't been used in defense.)

In 83.5% of these successful self-defenses, the attacker either threatened or used force first -- disproving the myth that having a gun available for defense wouldn't make any difference.

In 91.7% of these incidents the defensive use of a gun did not wound or kill the criminal attacker (and the gun defense wouldn't be called "newsworthy" as a result by newspaper or TV news editors). In 64.2% of these self-defense cases, the police learned of the defense, which means that the media could also find out and report on them if they chose to.

In 73.4% of these self-defense incidents, the attacker was a stranger to the intended victim. (Defenses against a family member or intimate were rare -- well under 10%.) This disproves the myth that a gun kept for defense will most likely be used against a family member or someone you love.

In over half of these self defense incidents, the defender was facing two or more attackers -- and three or more attackers in over a quarter of these cases. (No means of defense other than a firearm -- martial arts, pepper spray, or stun guns -- gives a potential victim a decent chance of getting away uninjured when facing multiple attackers.)

In 79.7% of these self-defenses, the defender used a concealable handgun. A quarter of the self-defenses occurred in places away from the defender's home.

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Source: National Safety Council

Marvin Wolfgang, Director of the Sellin Center for Studies in Criminology and Criminal Law at the University of Pennsylvania, considered by many to be the foremost criminologist in the country, wrote in that same issue, "I am as strong a gun-control advocate as can be found among the criminologists in this country. If I were Mustapha Mond of Brave New World, I would eliminate all guns from the civilian population and maybe even from the police ... What troubles me is the article by Gary Kleck and Marc Gertz. The reason I am troubled is that they have provided an almost clearcut case of methodologically sound research in support of something I have theoretically opposed for years, namely, the use of a gun in defense against a criminal perpetrator. ...I have to admit my admiration for the care and caution expressed in this article and this research. Can it be true that about two million instances occur each year in which a gun was used as a defensive measure against crime? It is hard to believe. Yet, it is hard to challenge the data collected. We do not have contrary evidence. The National Crime Victim Survey does not directly contravene this latest survey, nor do the Mauser and Hart Studies. ... the methodological soundness of the current Kleck and Gertz study is clear. I cannot further debate it. ... The Kleck and Gertz study impresses me for the caution the authors exercise and the elaborate nuances they examine methodologically. I do not like their conclusions that having a gun can be useful, but I cannot fault their methodology. They have tried earnestly to meet all objections in advance and have done exceedingly well."

So this data has been peer-reviewed by a top criminologist in this country who was prejudiced in advance against its results, and even he found the scientific evidence overwhelmingly convincing.

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Gun Accidents versus Homicides:

A fatal accident involving a firearm occurs in the United States only about once every 6 hours. For victims age 14 or under, it's fewer than one a day -- but still enough for the news media to have a case to tell you about in every day's edition.

A criminal homicide involving a firearm occurs in the United States about once every half hour -- but two-thirds of the fatalities are not completely innocent victims but themselves have criminal records.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports and Murder Analysis by the Chicago Police Department

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Kids and Firearms:

Here's what a 1995 federal study investigating juvenile crime found after looking at 20,000 randomly selected households:

Relationship between type of gun owned and the percent of juveniles committing street, drug and gun crimes.

Among Illegal gun owners:

Street crimes = 74%

Drug use = 41%

Gun crimes = 21%

Among Non-gun owners:

Street crimes = 24%

Drug use = 15%

Gun crimes = 1%

Among Legal Gun owners:

Street crimes = 14%

Drug use = 13%

Gun crimes = 0%

"The socialization into gun ownership is also vastly different for legal and illegal gunowners. Those who own legal guns have fathers who own guns for sport and hunting. On the other hand, those who own illegal guns have friends who own illegal guns and are far more likely to be gang members. For legal gunowners, socialization appears to take place in the family; for illegal gunowners, it appears to take place 'on the street.'"

"Boys who own legal firearms have much lower rates of delinquency and drug use and are even slightly less delinquent than non-owners of guns."

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NCJ-143454, "Urban Delinquency and Substance Abuse," August 1995.

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On Being Legally Armed For Self-Defense:

Making it legally possible for civilians to carry concealed weapons does not make society more violent or result in shootouts at traffic accidents. The rate of criminal misuse of firearms by the hundreds of thousands of persons licensed to carry concealed firearms in Florida for example, is so low as to be statistically zero. In fact, homicide, assault, rape, and robbery are dramatically lower in areas of the United States where the public is allowed easy access to carrying concealed firearms in public.

Sources: Florida Department of State, Concealed Weapons/ Firearms License Statistical Report and "Crime, Deterrence, and Right-to-Carry Concealed Handguns," by John R. Lott, Olin Fellow in Law and Economics at the University of Chicago Law School and David B. Mustard, graduate student, Department of Economics, Journal of Legal Studies, January 1997.

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Firearms and Suicide:

Making guns less available does not reduce suicide but merely causes the person seeking death to use another means. While gun-related suicides were reduced by Canada's handgun ban of 1976, the overall suicide rate did not go down at all: the gun-related suicides were replaced 100% by an increase in other types of suicide -- mostly jumping off bridges.

Source: Rich, Young, Fowler, Wagner, and Black, The American Journal of Psychiatry March, 1990

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CASE II

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From the National Safety Council's Annual Report (1994)

Numbers and Causes of Accidental Deaths:

Medical Malpractice* .....	180,000
Motor Vehicles .....	42,000
Falls .....	13,500
Poisoning .....	6,500
Drowning .....	4,800
Fires/Burns .....	4,000
Suffocation/Choking .....	2,900
Firearms .....	1,600

\*This data for this source was later compiled by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 1997.

Since 1930 the U.S. population has doubled and the number of privately owned firearms has quadrupled (to over 200 million), yet the annual number of accidental firearms deaths has decreased by 56 percent. Since 1967 the fatal firearms accident rate has dropped 67 percent to an all-time low, the greatest decline among the principal types of accidental deaths.

Moreover, according to the latest studies, firearms are used more than two million times each year by law abiding citizens to defend themselves and their loved ones from vicious criminals.

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CASE III

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Statistics related to gun ownership and carrying weapons published in June of 1996:  
Source: FBI's Uniform Crime Reports. All rates given are per 100,000 of population:

States which have restrictive CCW laws have an average murder rate 99 percent higher than "shall issue" CCW states. Other violent crimes follow a similar pattern, as shown below.

Murder rate in restrictive states (99% higher):.....	13.1
Murder rate in CCW states: .....	6.6
Robbery rate in restrictive states (113% higher): .....	258.2
Robbery rate in CCW states: .....	121.3
Aggravated assault rate in restrictive states (73% higher): .....	487.8
Aggravated assault rate in CCW states: .....	282.6

An even more startling comparison is looking at two areas with similar populations and different gun-carrying philosophies. These two places are North Dakota and Washington, D.C. North Dakota has a population of 638,800 and DC has a population of 606,900. DC has the higher murder rate, North Dakota the lowest. North Dakota has a liberal "shall issue" CCW law while handguns are completely banned in DC.

	North Dakota	Washington, D.C.
Murder	0.2	69.8
Robbery	12	1,107
Aggravated Assault	49	1,442

"These dramatic differences seem to indicate that there are cultural differences and value structures involved here over-and-above the presence of firearms. The overwhelming conclusion, however, is that the possession of firearms by law-abiding private citizens does dramatically reduce crime."