

# Banning Handguns

Magazines usually tell people how beautiful and powerful handguns are, and never mention how many children get hurt by handguns everyday. But I oppose handgun ownership because the fact is that handguns are a weapon of violence, they take more lives away every year, and they make people blind to the fact they are killing their own children.

Having handguns around the house creates the opportunity for deadly violence. People with handguns who have unstable feelings or tempers can easily lead to violent consequences. My father's friend shot his wife because of a simple argument.

Handguns pose a big risk to children. Thousands of children die by gunfire each year. Eight children every day; and more than 50 children every week are killed by gunfire. Every year, at least 4 to 5 times as many kids and teens suffer from non-fatal firearm injuries. (Children's Defense Fund and National Center for Health Statistics) The rate of firearm deaths of children 0-14 years old is nearly twelve times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other developed nations combined. In one year, firearms killed no children in Japan, 19 in Great Britain, 57 in Germany, 109 in France, 153 in Canada, and 5,285 in the United States. (National Center for Health Statistics, 1997) A study led by Matthew Miller found that in states where more handguns are available, children are more likely to be victims of firearm-related deaths. Children aged 5 to 14 living in one of the five high-gun states were twice as likely to commit suicide or to be murdered, three times as likely to die from firearm homicide, seven times as likely to die from firearm suicide, and 16 times as likely to die from a firearm-related accident. The study suggests the higher death rates are largely related to handgun availability and are not due to differences in levels of poverty, education, or urbanization in these states. (Humphries as cited in Miller study, p. 1)

Handguns create more family tragedies. Life can be taken very easily by improper use of firearms. "Kalie was my baby sister, she loved pink. We were playing with her dolls. I found a handgun in the drawer. It went off. I made Kalie go away. I hate me." (Atwan, America Now, 2003. Page 260) People might think that they can keep their weapons safe, but if there are no handguns at all, there would be no chance of any handgun-related accidents. Just think of Columbine High School and the shootings there and all the families impacted by that tragedy.

Bullets cannot be taken back, and the profit of firearm businesses cannot buy the lives that have been taken by firearms. Oppose handgun ownership and save a life!

## References/Work Cited List:

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