

## **Firearms Facts Provided by the NRA Institute for Legislative Action - NRA-ILA**

GENERAL NUMBER GUNS IN THE US: Approx. 200 million firearms  
GUN OWNERS IN U.S.: 60-65 million, 30-35 million own handguns  
CRIMINAL MISUSE OF FIREARMS YEARLY: Over 99.8% of U.S. firearms and 99.6% of U.S. handguns will not be involved in criminal activity in any given year.

### **WHY AMERICANS OWN FIREARMS**

HUNTING: 51% 33,000,000 Americans  
PROTECTION: 32% 21,000,000 " (Used Gun for Protection: 11% 7,000,000)  
TARGET SHOOTING: 13% 8,500,000  
COLLECTING: 4% 2,600,000

### **FIREARMS AND SELF-DEFENSE**

Survey research indicates that there are more than 2.1 million protective uses of firearms each year, far more than the number of violent criminal gun uses reported by the FBI. Most self-defense uses do not involve discharge of a firearm. In only 0.1% of defensive gun uses is a criminal killed, and in only 1% is a criminal wounded. A Department of Justice-sponsored survey found that 40% of felons had chosen not to commit at least one specific crime for fear their victims were armed, and 34% admitted being scared off or shot at by armed victims. U. S. Department of Justice victimization surveys show that the protective use of a firearm lessens the chance that a rape, robbery or assault attempt will be successfully completed and also reduces the chance of injury to the intended victim.

### **CRIME RATES LOWER IN STATES THAT ALLOW LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS TO CARRY FIREARMS**

States with favorable concealed carry laws have lower rates of crime than states with restrictive concealed carry laws. Overall, the homicide rate for states with favorable carry laws is 31% lower, and the robbery rate is 36% lower, than for states with restrictive concealed carry laws. States which have recently changed their laws have experienced reductions in homicide rates.

### **LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN U.S.**

Heart Disease 720,862  
Cancers 514,657  
Strokes 143,481  
Motor Vehicle 43,536  
Falls 12,662  
Drowning (incl. water transport drownings) 4,685  
Suffocation (mechanical, ingestion) 4,195  
Fires and flames 4,120  
Surgical/Medical misadventures\* 2,473  
Other Transportation (excl. drownings) 2,086  
Natural/Environmental factors 1,453  
**Firearms 1,441**  
Chronic pulmonary diseases 90,650  
Pneumonia and influenza 77,860  
Diabetes 48,951  
Suicide\*\* 30,810  
HIV Infections (AIDS) 29,555  
**Homicide and legal intervention\*\*\* 26,513**