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Gun Control

Firearms have been a significant component of American culture ever since the creation of the nation when the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States gave people access to firearms when it stated “...the right of people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed”. I strongly support this decision for the time period it was established but not so much for the current society.

In the 18th century, the United States was a new country and people needed firearms to protect themselves from potential threats such as Native Americans, the British army, and wild animals. During this time, the United States' infrastructures and social services such as policies were undeveloped so it is hard for Americans to secure their safety effectively without the protection of firearms. Therefore, it is necessary for them to own firearms so they can use them in different situations. This eventually made the United States the #1 country in gun ownership to the present time because, with the right to bear arms, Americans enjoy the usage of guns in various activities such as hunting and target shooting. According to the World Population Review, it stated: “With 120.5 civilian-owned firearms per 100 people, the United States has the highest rate of civilian gun ownership in the world—nearly double that of the second-place country, in fact”. This statistic shows that the United States has loose control over firearms so people can have easy access to weapons when they want to get one. It surprised me how easy it is to purchase a gun in the United States because the gun is a very deadly weapon and it will

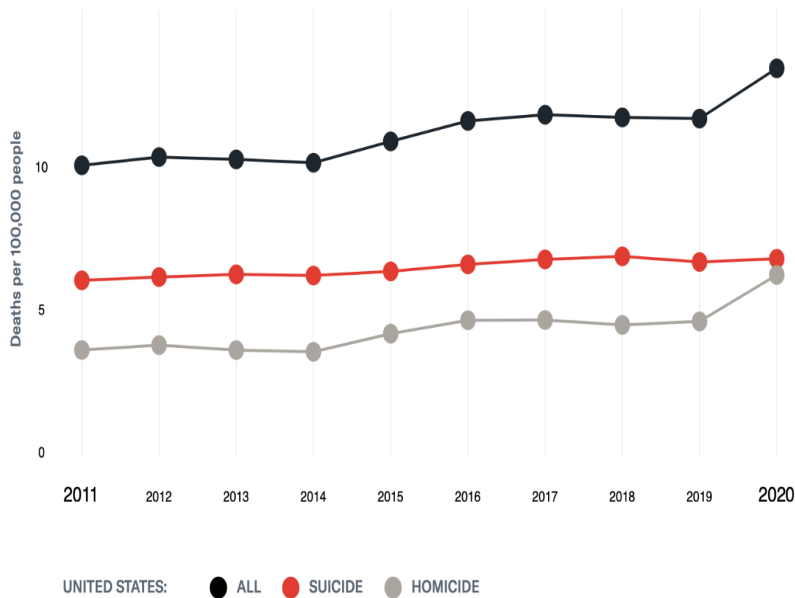
cause great harm if it was used by the wrong means. In some states, people can purchase even without a gun permit. How can you trust a person with a gun that doesn't have any training? Even if people use guns for a proper situation such as self-defense, they can still hurt themselves or innocent people since they have no gun experience.

With the advantage of easy access to firearms, it also comes with a major problem in the United States, gun violence. Based on the article "Gun Violence in the US Far Exceeds Levels in Other Rich Nations" by Cedric Sam and Lindsey Rupp, stated, "Mass shootings like the horrific attack that killed 19 children and 2 teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, or the murder of 10 people at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York the week prior, are all too common in the US". Due to the lack of regulation and restriction on firearms, gun violence became a common topic that appears on social media platforms. It is ironic since the Second Amendment was created so that people can use guns to protect themselves. Nowadays, I often hear news about shootings from social media. The closest one near my area would be the subway shooting on April 12, 2022. At that time, people were scared to ride subways and I was one of them because guns are deadly and there's nowhere that you can run away from shooters on the subway carts. I am lucky enough to not be at the scene but what about the victims that suffer from the mass shooting? The CCN news post "Survivors of mass shootings are left with lifelong wounds - and mounting bills" by Christina Maxouris stated, "But those who survive the carnage are faced with not just hospital bills but the lifelong costs of an altered lifestyle: many are unable to return to work because of disabilities and may need follow-up surgeries, rehabilitation for months or years, mental health treatment and home care". The victims of the shooting events will suffer from the impact of the shooting for the rest of their lifetimes and even victims that did not get directly wounded from the attack could suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The

damages dealt to the victims from the shooting event are unerasable and it is going to impact their households negatively. But the shooting events would not reduce and continue to occur if stricter gun laws weren't passed and enforced by government officials.

The strictness of gun laws directly significantly influences the number of homicides. There will be way fewer gun deaths when strict gun laws are enforced. According to the article "U.S. Gun Policy: Global Comparisons" by Jonathan Masters, he wrote "Gun control advocates regularly cite Japan's highly restrictive firearm regulations in tandem with its extraordinarily low gun death rate. Most years, fewer than one hundred Japanese die from gun violence in a country of 125 million people. Most guns are illegal in the country and ownership rates, which are quite low, reflect this". On the other hand, the United States has way more gun deaths. On the website EveryStat, it stated "National: 40,620 people die by guns in an average year, a rate of 12.2 deaths per 100,000 people". Based on the death rates from Japan and the United States, it is clear that stricter gun laws will lead to fewer gun deaths in a nation. There it is necessary for the

Gun Deaths Over Time in the United States



SOURCE: CDC, UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH, 2011-2020.

The rate of gun deaths has increased **33%** from 2011 to 2020 in the United States. This means that in 2020 there were **12,871** more gun deaths than in 2011.

In the United States, the rate of gun suicide increased **12%** and gun homicide increased **70%** from 2011 to 2020, respectively.

government to pass stricter gun laws. Even though stricter gun laws will not completely eliminate gun violence, they will definitely lower the current gun deaths tremendously. Every single number from the gun death matters because it is a person's life. One less gun release to the market could possibly reduce the number of gun deaths to the data.

To sum up, it is important for stricter gun laws to be implemented. I understand the gun culture in the United States is significant to Americans and guns are an important aspect of their life. In my opinion, people can still get to own guns but it should be harder for people to purchase guns. It is just unacceptable that gun stores sell guns to customers with just a quick background check, and answering a few simple questions. People's lives are precious and it is just unfair for them to lose their life due to the Second Amendment giving people the right to bear arms. This takes away those people's right to live without doing anything wrong.

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