

Gun Violence Resource Guide

Government Sources

Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Washington, D.C.
Sheree Mixell, chief of public affairs
(202) 927-8500
atfmail@atf.gov
www.atf.gov

The ATFE describes itself as “a principal law enforcement agency within the United States Department of Justice dedicated to preventing terrorism, reducing violent crime, and protecting our nation.” The bureau has about 5,000 employees, an annual budget of about \$1 billion, regional headquarters in 23 cities and satellite offices in more than a hundred others. In 2003, the ATFE was transferred from the Treasury Department to Justice. Its roles and initiatives include gun tracing, firearms license inspection and firearms and explosives training for law enforcers. It has a lead role in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, which allows federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to compare gun evidence from crimes.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Washington, D.C.
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/guns.htm

The Website of the BJS, a bureau of the U.S. Department of Justice, includes links to BJS reports on federal firearms offenders, firearm crime injuries, weapons offenses and offenders, and other information concerning guns and crime.

Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

Washington, D.C.
www.fedstats.gov

This federal interagency Website has links to statistics on firearms, among other things.

Organizations

American Bar Association

Special Committee on Gun Violence
Washington, D.C.
E. Bruce Nicholson
(202) 662-1769
nicholsonb@staff.abanet.org
www.abanet.org/gunviol/home.html

The committee’s website features position primers and gun violence links. The ABA generally supports a public policy of “more closely regulating the sale, transfer, possession and manufacture of guns.”

American Firearms

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Andrew Molchan, director
(954) 467-9994
andrew@amfire.com
www.amfire.com

American Firearms represents the Professional Gun Retailers Association and National Association of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers.

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

Washington, D.C.
Peter Hamm, communications director
(202) 898-0792
phamm@bradymail.org
www.bradycenter.org

The Brady Campaign is a leading proponent of gun control and chief adversary of the National Rifle Association.

Citizens for a Safer Minnesota

Heather Martens, Executive Director
(612) 822-3322
csm@endgunviolence.com
endgunviolence.com/

**The Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice does not endorse any position or viewpoint of any organizations or experts listed in this guide.*

Nonprofit member-based advocacy organization dedicated to ending gun violence. Their Web site says they promote sensible public policy at both the state and federal level.

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

Washington, D.C.

Ladd Everitt, communications director

(202) 408-0061, ext. 103

(202) 701-7171

leveritt@csgv.org or press@csgv.org

www.csgv.org

The coalition is made up of 45 organizations that seek “to secure freedom from gun violence through research, strategic engagement and effective policy advocacy.” Its members include religious organizations, child welfare advocates, public health professionals and social justice groups.

Firearms Research Digest

Boston, MA

www.firearmsresearch.org

info@firearmsresearch.org

Firearms Research Digest is a database of social science, criminology, law reviews, medical and public health research concerning firearms (2002-2009), compiled by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center.

Gun Owners of America

Springfield, Va.

Media contacts: Eddie Isler, Ellie McDaniel

(703) 321-8585

goamail@gunowners.org

www.gunowners.org

A non-profit lobbying organization formed in 1975, this group said its mission is “to preserve and defend the Second Amendment rights of gun owners.”

Gun Scholars

www.gunscholar.org/

The website is maintained by Eugene Volokh, a UCLA law professor. It features a list of experts of all political leanings “who research has led them to be skeptical of gun control,” as he put it. The website gives contact information for experts listed by state and specialty.

Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence

Tom Vandenberg, Interim Executive Director

(312) 341-0939

www.ichv.org

ICAHV is the oldest and largest statewide organization in the U.S. working to prevent the devastation caused by firearms. Founded in 1975 by four suburban Chicago women concerned about the tragic consequences of handgun proliferation and availability, ICHV works on a variety of fronts to educate, raise public awareness, and build coalitions to enact change in laws and behavior.

Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

Mark J. Walsh, Campaign Director

(312) 341-0939

mark@icpgv.org

ICGP, a project of Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV), is a research-based public education campaign to promote meaningful gun policy reform in Illinois.

Illinois Violent Death Reporting System

Jenifer Cartland, PhD

(312) 573-7772

jcartland@childrensmemorial.org

www.childrensmrc.org/chdl/illinoisviolent-deathreportingsystem

IVDRS is a project of the Child Health Data Lab at Children’s Memorial Hospital. It is based on the National Violent Death Reporting System, but Illinois is not part of NVDRS. IVDRS collects data from Cook, Kane and Peoria counties.

International Association of Chiefs of Police

Chief Scott Knight,

Firearms Committee Chair

Chaska Police Department

(952) 448-4200

sknight@chaskamn.com

Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research

Baltimore, Md.

Jon S. Vernick, co-director

(410) 955-7982

jvernick@jhsph.edu

www.jhsph.edu/gunpolicy

The center describes itself as “an objective resource” on guns. It says it is “dedicated to reducing gun-related injuries and deaths through the application of a public health perspective and sound research to the issue of gun violence prevention.”

Legal Community Against Violence

San Francisco

(415) 433-2062

media@lcav.org

www.lcav.org

Robyn Thomas, Executive Director

(415) 433-2062

rthomas@lcav.org

This is a public interest law center that provides legal assistance in support of gun violence prevention. The group says it “focuses on policy reform at the state and local level, marshaling the expertise of the legal community to help transform America’s gun policies from the grassroots up.”

Mayors Against Illegal Guns

Coordinator, Coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns

(212) 788-5461

agerney@cityhall.nyc.gov

www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org

National Rifle Association

Fairfax, Va.

Andrew Arulanandam,

director of public affairs

(703) 267-3820

media@nrahq.org

www.nra.org

Founded in 1871, the NRA began political activism by creating its Legislative Affairs Division in 1934, when Congress passed the National Firearms Act, America’s first attempt at federal gun control. Over the past 40 years in particular, the NRA has been a powerful political force in America, serving as guardian of the Second Amendment, bulwark against federal oversight of firearms and a lightning rod for those who favor gun control. The group claims 4.3 million members, about half of whom are said to be hunters.

National Shooting Sports Foundation

Newtown, Conn.

Bill Brassard, managing director for

communications, safety and education

(203) 426-1320

bbrassard@nssf.org

www.nssf.org

Generally, this group is aligned ideologically with the NRA.

National Violent Death Reporting System

Washington D.C

Media Line: 770-488-4902

www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nvdrs.html

(NVDRS is a state-based surveillance system that links data from law enforcement, coroners and medical examiners, vital statistics, and crime laboratories to assist each participating state in designing and implementing tailored prevention and intervention efforts. NVDRS currently is collecting data from 17 states.)

Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence

Toby Hoover, Director

(419) 244.7442

oacgv@yahoo.com

home.ohioceasefire.org/

The OCAGV educates the public about gun homicides, suicides, and unintentional deaths and injuries. The Coalition supports and encourages local, state and federal legislation to reduce the accessibility of firearms in our communities and families.

Second Amendment Foundation

Bellevue, Wash.

Alan M. Gottlieb, Founder and Vice president

(425) 454-7012

akagunnut@aol.com

www.saf.org

This group says it is “dedicated to promoting a better understanding about our Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms.” It offers “educational and legal action programs designed to better inform the public about the gun control debate.”

Students for Concealed Carry on Campus

MediaTeam@ConcealedCampus.org

www.concealedcampus.org

The group, founded after the Virginia Tech massacre, says it has more 30,000 members, most of them college students. It says its mission is to “educate the public about the facts of concealed carry and dispel the many myths about concealed carry” and to “push state legislatures and school administrations to grant concealed handgun license holders the same right—the right to carry concealed handguns—on college campuses that these license holders currently enjoy at most other places.”

Violence Policy Center

Washington, D.C.

Josh Sugarman, Executive Director

Media contact: Marty Langley

(202) 822. 8200 ext. 109

www.vpc.org

This group, which supports gun control, conducts research on the gun industry, firearms violence and federal gun regulation. It publishes fact sheets on firearms, firearms and domestic violence, women and firearms violence among other things.

Academics, Experts

Randy E. Barnett

Professor, Georgetown University Law Center

Washington, D.C.

(202) 662-9936

rbarnett@gmail.com

www.randybarnett.com

Expertise: A senior fellow at the Cato Institute, Barnett is an expert in gun litigation, including lawsuits against gun manufacturers.

Philip Cook

Professor, Duke University

Durham, N.C. 27708

(919) 613-7360

pcook@duke.edu

Expertise: A professor of economics, sociology and public policy, he has written books on the costs and consequences of the widespread availability of guns, and what might be done about it. He co-authored (with Jens Ludwig) *Gun Violence: The Real Costs* (Oxford University Press, 2000) and *Evaluating Gun Policy* (Brookings Institution Press, 2003), an edited collection of original contributions. His recent research concerns underground gun markets.

Rose Cheney, Ph.D., Executive Director

Firearm and Injury Center at

University of Pennsylvania

Phone: (215) 614-0162

rose.cheney@uphs.upenn.edu

www.uphs.upenn.edu/ficap

Expertise: A demographer with a background in public health, Dr. Cheney provides organizational leadership of the Center’s multidisciplinary resources, collaboration and supported research.

Peter DeForest

Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
New York, N.Y.

(212) 237-8899

pdeforest@jjay.cuny.edu

Expertise: DeForest, a forensic scientist and professor of criminalistics, counts ballistics and crime scene analysis among his specialties.

Alan Dershowitz

Professor, Harvard Law School

Cambridge, Mass.

(617) 495-4617

Interview requests:

www.alandershowitz.com/interview.php

www.alandershowitz.com

Expertise: The often-quoted advocate for civil liberties has taken a hard line in favor of gun control. He once said, “The Second Amendment has no place in modern society.”

Tom Diaz

Senior Policy Analyst, Violence Policy Center

tdiaz@vpc.org

Expertise: federal gun control

Benjamin R. Hayes

Special Agent, Chief, Law Enforcement

Support Branch

National Tracing Center Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Benjamin.R.Hayes@usdoj.gov

Expertise: gun tracing

Dr. David Hemenway, Director

Harvard Injury Control Research Center

(617) 432-4493

Hemenway@hsph.harvard.edu

www.hsph.harvard.edu/research/hicrc/index.html

Expertise: injury prevention, including firearms, violence, suicide, child abuse, motor vehicle crashes, fires, falls and fractures.

Kevin Johnson

Sergeant, Chicago Anti-Gun Enforcement

Team (CAGE), Organized Crime Division,

Chicago Police Department

Kevin.Johnson@chicagopolice.org

Expertise: gun tracing and law enforcement

Don Kates Jr.

Attorney, research fellow and former professor
The Independence Institute
San Francisco
(360) 666-2688
donkates@earthlink.net

Expertise: Kates, who speaks and writes from a pro-gun perspective, is an expert in the Second Amendment.

David Kennedy

Director, Center for Crime Prevention and Control
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
New York, N.Y.
(212) 484-1323
dakennedy@jjay.cuny.edu

Expertise: Gun and gang violence, drug markets and crime reduction strategies are among the specialties of Kennedy, a frequently quoted professor specializing in applied crime control.

Gary Kleck

Professor, Florida State University
Tallahassee, Fla.
Office: (850) 644-7651
Home: (850) 894-1628
gkleck@fsu.edu

Expertise: This often-cited expert is generally skeptical of gun control. He conducted seminal research on gun ownership in the 1990s. His books include *Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America*, *Targeting Guns: Firearms and Their Control*, and (with Don Kates) *Armed: New Perspectives on Gun Control*.

David Kopel

Research Director, Independence Institute
Associate Policy Analyst, Cato Institute
Golden, Colo.
(303) 279-6536
david@i2i.org
www.i2i.org, www.davekopel.com,
www.cato.org

Expertise: A frequent commentator and generally anti-gun control expert on gun policy, constitutional law, civil liberties and cross-national comparisons of gun laws, Kopel wrote *The Samurai*, *the Mountie*, and *the Cowboy: Should America Adopt the Gun Controls of Other Democracies?* He was deeply involved in the *D.C. v. Heller* Supreme Court, as a proponent of the right to own handguns.

Tomislav Kovandzic

Professor, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Texas-Dallas
(972) 883-6847
tkovan@utdallas.edu
www.utdallas.edu/~tvk071000

Expertise: Gun control, the Brady Act and “shall-issue” gun carry laws.

Sanford Levinson

Professor, University of Texas Law School
Austin, Texas
(512) 232-1351
slevinson@law.utexas.edu
Levinson’s Assistant: Mary Hendryx, (512) 232-4860, mhendryx@law.utexas.edu

Expertise: Second Amendment

Robert A. Levy

Senior Fellow, Cato Institute
Washington, D.C.
(239) 566-7139
E-mail: rlevy@cato.org

Expertise: Gun litigation, Second Amendment, right to bear arms, gun control. Levy, described by the *New York Times* as “a rich libertarian lawyer who has never owned a gun,” played a key role in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the case in which the Supreme Court ruled Washington’s restrictive gun law unconstitutional. Levy both helped frame and single-handedly financed the case.

Jens Ludwig

Professor of Social Service Administration,
Law, and Public Policy
University of Chicago Law School
Chicago Crime Lab
(773) 702-3242
jludwig@uchicago.edu

Expertise: Highly regarded expert with a pro-gun control point of view.

Thomas Marvell

Justec Research
Williamsburg, Va.
(757) 229-9772
Marvell@cox.net

Expertise: Marvell has conducted research, often cited by those who oppose gun control, on the lack of effect of gun control on violent crime.

Greg Ridgeway

Associate director, Safety and Justice Program
RAND Corporation
Santa Monica, Calif.
Media Contact: Jeffrey Hiday
(703) 413-1100, x5117 or (310) 451-6913
media@rand.org
www.rand.org/media/experts/

Expertise: Illegal firearms and ammunition. The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit think tank that focuses on research and analysis of public policy issues. Contact Hiday to arrange an interview.

Nicholas Roti

Chief, Organized Crime Division, Chicago
Police Department
Nicholas.roti@chicagopolice.org

Expertise: Roti is an expert on illegal crime guns as well as tracking and tracing illegal firearms.

Robert J. Spitzer

Professor of Political Science
State University of New York at Cortland
(607) 753-4106
spitzerb@cortland.edu

Expertise: Spitzer is the author of *The Politics of Gun Control*, which analyzes the political antecedents and consequences of gun control. The book includes a history of gun control.

Laurence H. Tribe

Professor, Harvard Law School
Cambridge, Mass.
(617) 495-4621
tribe@law.harvard.edu
Tribe’s Assistant: Kathleen McGillicuddy,
(617) 496-2181

Expertise: An expert in constitutional law, Tribe has been cited as being among the prominent liberal-leaning scholars who believe the Second Amendment protects an individual’s right to own guns.

Glenn H. Utter

Professor and Political Science
Department Chair
Lamar University
Beaumont, Texas
Home: (409) 866-3010
Office: (409) 880-8527
glenn.utter@lamar.edu
dept.lamar.edu/polisci/UTTER/UTTER_CV.html#1

Expertise: Utter is author of *The Encyclopedia of Gun Control and Gun Rights*.

Ben Van Houten

Staff Attorney
Legal Community Against Violence
phone (415) 433-2062 ext. 311
fax (415) 433-335
bvanhouten@lcav.org

Expertise: legal statutes and legislation

Eugene Volokh

Professor, UCLA School of Law
Los Angeles, Calif.
(310) 206-3926
volokh@law.ucla.edu
www.law.ucla.edu/volokh/, www.gunscholar.org

Expertise: Volokh compiled the website Gunscholar.org, which he describes as “The Journalist’s Guide to Gun Policy Scholars and Second Amendment Scholars, featuring experts—liberals, moderates, and conservatives—whose research has led them to be skeptical of gun control.”

Dr. Daniel Webster Co-Director

<http://www.jhsph.edu/gunpolicy/index.html>
Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research
dwebster@jhsph.edu,
(410) 955-0440

Expertise: firearm policy, youth gun acquisition and carrying, the prevention of gun violence, intimate partner violence, and adolescent violence prevention

Harry Wilson

Professor, Roanoke College
Salem, Va.
(540) 375-2415
E-mail: wilson@roanoke.edu

Expertise: Wilson is the author of Guns, Gun Control, and Elections: The Politics and Policy of Firearms, published in 2006. The book includes research and analysis about the portrayal of guns in the media.

Dr. Garen Wintemute

Director, Violence Prevention Research Program
University of California, Davis
(916) 734-3539
gjwintemute@ucdavis.edu
www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/vprp/

Expertise: Violence and its prevention, firearms policy, Health and human rights

Franklin Zimring

Professor, University California-Berkeley Law School
Berkeley, Calif.
(510) 642-0854
E-mail: fzimring@law.berkeley.edu

Expertise: A widely quoted criminologist, Zimring co-authored The Citizens Guide to Gun Control.

ABOUT THE CENTER ON MEDIA, CRIME AND JUSTICE

The Center on Media, Crime and Justice, established at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY) 2006, is the nation's only practice- and research-oriented think tank devoted to encouraging and developing high-quality reporting on criminal justice, and to promoting better-informed public debate on the complex 21st-century challenges of law enforcement, public security and justice in a globalized urban society.

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An international leader in educating for justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice of The City University of New York offers a rich liberal arts and professional studies curriculum to upwards of 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 135 nations. In teaching, scholarship and research, the College approaches justice as an applied art and science in service to society and as an ongoing conversation about fundamental human desires for fairness, equality and the rule of law. For more information, visit www.jjay.cuny.edu



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