

Firearm Laws: “Shall Issue” Concealed Weapon Carry Laws

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

“Shall issue” concealed-weapon carry laws (“shall issue laws”) require the issuing of a concealed-weapon carry permit to all applicants not disqualified by specified criteria. Shall issue laws are usually implemented in place of “may issue” laws, in which the issuing of a concealed weapon carry permit is discretionary (based on criteria such as the perceived need or moral character of the applicant).

Task Force Finding (April 2002)*

Evidence is insufficient to determine the effectiveness of shall issue laws in the prevention of violence. Several available studies are based on a single source of county-level crime data, which has been found to be unreliable for evaluation research. Problems with study execution and inconsistent findings by outcome and state also limit the interpretation of available studies.

*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce violence through early childhood home visitation, therapeutic foster care, and firearms laws. *Am J Prev Med* 2005;28(2S1):6-10.

Publications

CDC. [First reports evaluating the effectiveness of strategies for preventing violence: firearms laws: findings from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5214a2.htm) [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5214a2.htm]. *MMWR* 2003;52(RR-14):11-20.

Hahn RA, Bilukha O, Crosby A, et al. Firearms laws and the reduction of violence: a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2005;28(2S1):40-71.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce violence through early childhood home visitation, therapeutic foster care, and firearms laws. *Am J Prev Med* 2005;28(2S1):6-10.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Violence. In: Zaza S, Briss PA, Harris KW, eds. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* Atlanta (GA): Oxford University Press;2005:329-84 (Out of Print).

Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions on this page are those of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and do not necessarily represent those of CDC. Task Force evidence-based recommendations are not mandates for compliance or spending. Instead, they provide information and options for decision makers and stakeholders to consider when determining which programs, services, and policies best meet the needs, preferences, available resources, and constraints of their constituents.

Document last updated September 29, 2010