

# GUN FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

\*Compiled by Stephen Gutowski (@CollegePolitico)\*

There is a lot of heated debate about guns and gun control in the United States right now. That's why it's important to consider all the facts. Here are some you may not have heard in any NBC, CNN, or ABC news report.

THE US HAS A LOT OF GUNS

# 270 Million

Estimated number of  
civilian owned firearms  
in America

THAT WORKS OUT TO ABOUT



89 Guns  
For Every  
100 US  
Residents

IN FACT, THE US IS #1 IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO  
GUN OWNERSHIP



HOWEVER, THE US DOESN'T EVEN CRACK THE TOP 25 IN  
GUN MURDER RATE

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IN LIFE AND DEATH SITUATIONS CIVILIANS USE GUNS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES MORE THAN 77% OF THE TIME



Civilian Justifiable Homicides By Gun

FOR POLICE IT'S OVER 99% OF THE TIME

Police Justifiable Homicides By Gun

**AMERICANS USE GUNS IN SELF DEFENSE MORE OFTEN  
THAN YOU MIGHT THINK**

# 2.5 Million

Estimated number of  
incidents of defensive  
gun use per year in  
the US

**A LOT OF INK HAS BEEN SPILLED OVER THE DANGERS OF  
RIFLES LIKE THE AR-15 BUT WHAT DO THE STATISTICS  
SAY?**



**WELL, ALL RIFLES (THAT INCLUDES THE AR-15) WERE  
INVOLVED IN FEWER HOMICIDES IN 2011 THAN BLUNT  
OBJECTS, FISTS, AND KNIVES**

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Blunt Objects

Fists

Knives

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600

Homicides in 2011



# 1.5x

as many  
homicides were  
committed with  
blunt objects than  
rifles

# 2.2x

as many  
homicides were  
committed with  
fists than rifles

# 5.2x

# 2.6%

Of murders in  
2011 involved  
rifles (including  
AR-15s)

Take these facts and use them the next time guns and gun control come up. Share them on Facebook. Tweet them out. Tumblr them. Get them out to everybody.

\*Compiled using the FBI Unified Crime Report, Small Arms Survey, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, National Self-Defense Survey\*

\*For a more detailed explanation of these statistics visit [TheCollegePolitico.com](http://TheCollegePolitico.com)\*