

United States – Steps towards gun control

Between 2006 and 2011, 56,439 people were murdered in the U.S. by firearms, twice as many as were killed by all other means combined

■ **1791:** The U.S. Constitution protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms

THE 2ND AMENDMENT

A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed



■ **1976: Firearms Control Regulations Act** bans residents in U.S. capital, Washington DC, from owning handguns, automatic firearms, or high-capacity semi-automatic weapons

■ **1993:** So-called **Brady Law** signed by **President Bill Clinton** requires federal background checks into firearm purchaser's criminal and mental health history.

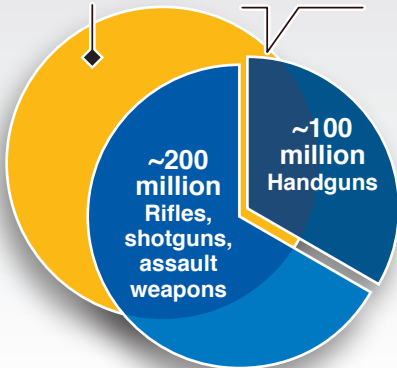
Of 16,454,951 background checks in 2010, just 78,211 firearms purchases (0.48%) were denied

■ **1994-2004:** Federal law bans production and sale of assault weapons. President George W. Bush allows ban to lapse

■ **2008:** Supreme Court rules that individual Americans have right to own guns for personal use, overturning 1976 gun control law

311.6 million
U.S. population
(2011)

270-300 million
Guns owned by
U.S. citizens



| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Licensed gun dealers | 129,817 |
| Annual value of gun sales | \$4.1bn |
| Total murders (2011) | 12,664 |
| Murders by firearms | 8,583 |
| Suicides by firearms (2005) | 17,200 |