# Article information:

Do guns make us safer? Science suggests no | News | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/do-guns-make-us-safer-science-suggests-no/>

# Article summary:

1. The commonly cited statistic that 2.5 million people use guns each year to defend themselves or their property is based on faulty analysis from a 1990s study, and a more reliable source puts the number at roughly 100,000.

2. There is no good evidence that using a gun in self-defense reduces the likelihood of injury, and having another weapon such as mace or a baseball bat can also reduce the likelihood of property loss.

3. While research has not uncovered a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the prevalence of guns and the U.S. crime rate, the presence of more guns does make crimes more violent.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Do guns make us safer? Science suggests no" from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health discusses conflicting statistics about guns and their impact on public safety. The article features an interview with David Hemenway, a professor of health policy at Harvard and an expert on gun violence.

The article highlights that the commonly cited statistic that 2.5 million people use guns each year to defend themselves or their property is based on faulty analysis from a 1990s study. Instead, a more reliable source of information, the National Crime Victimization Survey, pegs the number at roughly 100,000. The article also notes that there is no good evidence that using a gun in self-defense reduces the likelihood of injury.

Hemenway also addresses claims made by gun lobbies that more law-abiding citizens carrying guns deters crime. He argues that research has not uncovered a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the prevalence of guns and the U.S. crime rate. However, he notes that the presence of more guns does make crimes more violent.

Overall, the article presents a one-sided view on gun control and its effectiveness in reducing crime rates. While it provides some evidence to support its claims, it fails to explore counterarguments or present both sides equally. Additionally, it does not address potential biases or sources of funding for Hemenway's research.

Furthermore, while the article acknowledges that having a gun may reduce property loss, it fails to note potential risks associated with owning firearms such as accidental shootings or increased risk of suicide.

In conclusion, while this article provides some valuable insights into the debate around gun control and public safety, it falls short in presenting a balanced view and addressing potential biases or missing evidence for its claims.

# Topics for further research:

* Risks associated with owning firearms
* Counterarguments to gun control effectiveness
* Sources of funding for gun violence research
* Impact of gun ownership on suicide rates
* Studies on the relationship between gun prevalence and crime rates
* Evidence on the effectiveness of using guns in self-defense

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/9ac1f212e92f21ebfff0dd864859290c>