Gun-Control Laws

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# Introduction

The United States of America has more than 200 million of firearms. The country experience 640,000 crimes every year and of those violent crime 16000 are committed by using guns, specifically hand guns. Some of the native people say that there should be strong gun-control laws to reduce the rate of crime and blood sheds. But others believe that gun laws should be less strict because guns are helpful in many circumstances. The 2011 Gallup poll find out that 44 percent of the native were in favor of the strict gun control laws and 43 percent say that laws should remain the same as those are now but 11 percent people were in favor of making gun control laws less strict. Twenty years back the result of the same poll showed that eighty percent were in favor of strict gun-control laws. Today still people are asking for strict gun-control rules but the number is not same as 20 years back. Millions of the people in America believe that gun service a very legitimate purpose in their community and guns are not the issue but those individual who uses it for crime needs to be punished (Crf-usa.org, 2019).

The issue is that firearms are responsible for 31000 deaths and 74000 injuries with the United States each year. Most of these issues are related to violence (Siegel, Ross, & King III, 2013) . The issues is important because the data shows that quite a number of people are in support of flexible gun-control rules and rest of the native Americans says that the country should have strong gun-control laws. Arm related mortality rate is increasing day by day with in the United States. Strong decision needs to be taken whether the gun-control rules are flexible or strong. Several researches show that the firearm prevalence has a direct impact on the rate of homicide (Siegel et al., 2013). The risk and benefits of gun ownership should be examined.

Despite the rising in gun shooting violence, rare federal legislation has been approved within the United States. There were initial 5 establishment of the gun-control legislation and only three changes have been done in the gun-control legislations in the 75 years of the country. The first piece of legislature regarding firearm control is the 1934 National Firearms Act (NFA). Its aim is to ban shotguns, machine guns and rifle typically of sawed-off shotguns, silencers and mufflers. And the Act also says that weapons in possession of individual should be registered with the Secretary of Treasures.

Then in 1968, the Gun control Act was approved and it was passed to do some amendment in the definition of fireman and it also expended the definition of “machinegun” it was a revision of the previous act. Then in 1986 the second major act was passed called, “The Fireman protection Act”. It brought significant changes in gun-control legislature. It says to reduce the record of licensed dealers and it also reduced the cost of falsifications of records. In 1993 the third major change happened in gun-control laws. The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act was passed due to the efforts of President Bill Clinton who had long campaign to control the access of handgun. The aim of this act was to have a five days period for waiting to have license of those who want to have handguns (Hummer, 2016).

The purpose of this research is to compare strict gun-control legislation and flexible gun-control legislation of states and their impact on gun shooting violence with the United States. This proposal is important because it will identify the facts that whether the gun violence need to be controlled through flexible or strict gun-control legislation. It will also identity other measures to control fire arm violence within the country.

## Literature Review

In the United States gun is seen as an important symbol that was used to get independence from Great Britain. The recent mass shooting have started a new debate of the rights of gun-control within the United States. Gun violence has increased within the States and Gun violence can be defined as the cause of terror of death or harm by using firearms. As a result of gun violence multiple national tragedy occurred in the United States and the question raised that whether the main problem lies in the legislation or is it the issuances of the ownership of unlicensed guns. Some says that the USA governments need to control gun distributions and some say that a well operated Militia that is the right of people to have guns is necessary for a Free State. The constitution of the United States does not say that gun-control is unlaw full but people interpret this in a way that such strict laws prohibit their right to keep guns given by the 2nd amendment of the constitution (Victor, 2016).

However, strict gun control is defined as legal sanctioned designed to have scarcity of fire arms within the general public. The policy of gun scarcity within the public can help to reduce the act of criminal gun violence. Americans feel very reluctant to give up the rights to have guns. Well planned firearm policies could be helpful in reduction of criminal activities within the states (Stell, 2004).

Reforms in the laws of gun-control can be brought more successfully by the State legislature than the Congress as that is more close to the community. But states laws are not uniform throughout the states and very strict gun laws in one state can be challenged by the flexible gun-control laws in another state. The weaker laws in the neighboring state become a common standard. Virginia has one-gun-one month law which he state legislation has passed in the year 1993. Handgun are not allowed in Washington but are trafficked easily in other states. Virginia has put some restrictions on the sale of handguns and a person cannot have more than one handgun in month. After this strict rule the rate of gun violence declined in Virginia (Smallarmssurvey.org, 2019)

Florida presented the first “Stand your ground law”. The laws remove the restrictions on using force in self-defense. The state government is asking the local individual to stand on their grounds if they are able to prevent the harms that they are going to face. The law in Florida raises the age to buy and use rifles but also allows the school staff to get trained in using arms. The law does not ban the use of semi-automatic rifles as used in the incident of Parkland. NRA is asking to revisit the age restriction provided by the state law as people at age 18 are considered adults. (BBC News, 2019).

Several states have laws that make the owner of the gun liable for the loss occurred using that gun. These laws are extremely controversial and have increased the rate of injuries related to fire arms. From 1990 to 1994 12 States were following the rule which makes the owners of the gun responsible to have firearms unless that gun is out of the reach of children. The law reduced the rate of unintentional shooting in Children by 23 percent. Also the rate of fun related homicide also showed tremendous decrease. This statics show that laws related to safe storage of guns also have some great impact on controlling gun related violence within the country (Cummings, et.al, 1997)

The research methods used by those researchers to quantitatively analyses their research topic was based on the statically data that were conducted by dividing the States into three categories. Those divisions were based on the restrictiveness and non-restrictiveness of their firearm laws. The analyzed data taken from state homicide and suicide rate within a specific time period. The research in criminal justices documented the role of gun-control in suicide rates and the result shows that the increase in suicide rate from 1962 -1975 was accounted by the rate of suicide while using guns. Guns were also seen imported in huge amount within the same time period. Studies were conducted that whether strict gun-control rules are helpful in the reduction of homicides in USA. The studies showed that the stickiness of the rules were unrelated to homicides but had lowered suicidal rates in the period 1960-70. The study further showed that the regions with greater number of ownership of guns have high suicide rates using guns and the overall rate of homicides also increased. The rate of suicide and composite are mostly effected by the gun ownership not by the strictness of gun-control laws. The study suggested that more focus should be on the ownership of the guns rather than the flexibility or strictness of gun-controlling laws in order to prevent homicides and violence within the country (Lester, 1988).

The research gap that was found after going through the researchers in criminology and criminal justice gave a new dimension to my research question. The literature review showed that the effect of strict and flexible laws on homicide in uncertain but ownership control of gun has a major effect on the rate of homicide and suicide. The literature review showed that this variable of ownership control of gun should also be included in the research question in order to get the inside of homicide and gun related violence inside the country.

**Modified research question:**

The research question is being modified after the literature review and the research will be based on the research question, “what is the impact of strict and flexible gun control laws of the states and controlled gun ownership on the rate of gun violence?”

**Hypothesis:**

The research hypothesis is the main endeavor of research and it is the center of focus while conducting a research. It states that what the research is going to find and the hypothesis is tested based on the methodology being followed throughout the research. Hypothesis in a quantitative research is based on variables (Statistics Solutions, 2019).

**The hypotheses based on the research question are:**

**H1**: Strict gun-control laws reduce the rate of gun violence within a state.

**H2**: States with flexible gun-control laws have low rate of gun violence as compared to states with strict gun-control laws.

**H3:** Stats that has focused on the controlled gun ownership has successfully reduced the rate of gun violence.

**Variables:**

Variables are the foundation of any quantitative research. There are three types of variable that a quantitative research is based on. Those are dependent variable, Independent variable and controlled variable.

Independent variable will be manipulated in way that it will show some eff4ect on the dependent variable and if it is not allowed to manipulate that it will be assumed that independent variable have some effect on the dependent variable. The independent variable is the one which cause a change and a depended variable will change by the independent variable (Irlbeck, 2002).

The dependent variables that this research will going to focus is the gun violence and it will be denoted by “throughout the research. And the independent variables are strict gun-controlled laws, flexible gun-controlled laws of the states and controlled gun ownerships.

The variables will help to identify the increasing rate of gun violence and their correlation will reveal that what sort of laws are needed to minimize the rate of killing using guns within the United States. Their effect on the dependent variable will be checked by collecting data through survey.

**Data collection tool:**

The data collection method that will be used to conduct this research is an online survey. The sample size for the data will be the states will the least effective gun-controlled laws and the ones with the toughest gun-controlled laws. The literature review shows that Florida has some flexible gun-controlled laws and California and Washington-DC has strict gun-controlled laws. Some educational institutes within those states will be selected and the students will be sent the survey questions after having their consent.

### Research Methodology

**Sampling:**

Sampling is a process being followed by a researcher to choose samples.

Sampling can be done firstly, by identify the population of interest. Population f interest is that group of people whom the researcher is going to take data from. Then the researcher will specific a sample frame, that will highlight the group of people you will participate as a sample in the research (Marshall, 1996).

Unit of analysis in a research is what is going to be studied through the research and what aspects of the said topic are going to be analyzed. Unit of analysis shows the scope of the research studies and it highlights the boundaries of the research. To be more specific, the unit of analysis could be school/college and students etc. Unit of analysis set boundaries for data interpretation (Marshall, 1996).

The sample will be collected through online survey. 300 students from any educational institute will be selected for this survey, up to 100 government and private employees and 100 community members will be selected randomly for this survey. The unit of analysis will be taken from Florida and California based on the fact that California has got the strict Gun-control laws and Florida has flexible gun-control laws. As students are affected more by gun violence so the research will select more from this population. The survey will start after asking for the consents of the participants. They will be send consent papers through their email and survey question will be attached to that. If they sign the consent paper then they will have get the option to process further. The consent form will let the participant know that their information are in safe hands and will be protected by the researcher. It will also reveal the purpose of the research and it will also tell the participant that their involved can make this research successful.

**Data Analysis:**

Data analysis is the extraction of meaningful information from the mass of data. There are various sorts of data analysis approached and methods. Data preparation is the first stage of data analyses its aim is to shape raw data into something readable. Second step is the Data Validation. Its aim is to make it clear that data is being collected based on pre-set standard and without showing any biasness. Data Validation occurs in four steps, Fraud is the first step which aims is to make sure that the particular individual was involved in interview or survey. Screening is the next step which is to make it clear whether the interview is according to the research criteria. The third one is “Procedure” and this step is useful in order to check whether the procedure of data collection and doing research is being completely followed (Bryman & Burgess, 2002). I will pick up random respondent and will reach up to them through emails.

However, Data Editing is the second step in which, large data set includes error mostly so basic data checks needed in order to make sure that there won’t be any error. The raw data world be checked that if there is any ambiguity in the data that might change the accuracy of the collected set of data. Data coding is the most important step in data analysis. It is assigning values to data and grouping them. This is the completion of data setting and after that data analysis step stars. The common quantitative Data Analysis methods are the inferential statistics and descriptive statistics. In descriptive analysis data is being summarized and the pattern in the data is identified. The descriptive statistics are Means, Mode, Median or percentage, range and frequency. This set of statistics provides absolute numbers. Any of the methods can be used to analyze the data. Like percentage is the best method to identify the gender distribution of the participants. If there is one variable the Descriptive Statics is used. the other option is inferential statistics. In this method the researcher generalize the data by applying the method of correlation and regression analysis. This analysis is mostly done by software like the SPSS (Bryman & Burgess, 2002).

I will choose interferential statistics because the selected population is huge and I will be able to generalize the results. I think the result should be similar to what other researchers have got. The impact of strict and flexible gun-control laws will not be affecting gun violence as much as the controlled gun- ownership does. Because it has been seen previously that controlled gun- ownership has changed the rate of gun violence.

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### Policy Implications of The Research

If the results of the research were like the same as predicted, for instance the impact of strict and flexible gun-control laws will not be affecting gun violence as much as the controlled gun- ownership does. Then based on my research controlled ownerships o gun is important than the nature of gun-control laws. If the criminal justices agencies chose my research then they have to request the state legislative body to bring reforms in the gun-control laws of their respective states and Federal government should also be notified. Some of the implications would be that people will not question the state that their right to keep guns has been snatched by the state but now they will have the rights to have guns but its ownership will be controlled through laws. The gun owner will have to follow laws in order to use and keep that gun. He/ she will be responsible for any kind of ill activity that is being done using that done. He/she will make it sure that the gun is kept out of the reach of children.

As the previous results show that the rate of criminal actions are decreased in states with controlled gun ownerships so gun violence will lessen down and community will be in peace. The legal consequences of the implications of this research would be that, the gun keeping age will be decided and the responsibilities that come with the keeping of the gun should be properly decided.

**Research Limitations:**

The research is time bounded as I have to provide the results to my institute within some specific time.

It is not considered all the states due to lack of time and low financial capacity. The research is not going to include 100 percent of the population again due to the said issues.

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